

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 1877.

The Week.

CIVIL-SERVICE reformers and the public generally were considerably surprised a few days ago at hearing that Mr. Evarts had, out of regard to the claims of the great State of Pennsylvania, requested the Congressional delegation from that State to suggest some one for the English mission. They promptly suggested the name of Mr. Simon Cameron, who was dismissed from Mr. Lincoln's Cabinet for corruption in 1862, and has ever since been, as he had been for many a year before, one of the most mischievous and unprincipled politicians in the country. The delegation say they had a positive promise that their nominee would be accepted, whoever he might be. This, we believe, Mr. Evarts and the President deny; but even if the promise had been made, it could not be kept. To make it was at least an act of folly; to keep it would be little short of a crime, and of course would make the pretensions of the Administration as civil-service reformers hereafter ridiculous. The reasons why this attempt to dieker with the Pennsylvania politicians should never have been made at all, are obvious enough. If the result convinces Mr. Evarts that the strait and narrow way is the best, however, we shall all be gainers by it. This, with other things, including Mr. Devens's letter encouraging office-holders to take part in the canvass, and showing that the order did not prohibit this, are indications, we fear, that the Cabinet is getting a little frightened by the opposition, and thinks, as Mark Twain says, that "war is not what it is cracked up to be." The course of events is, in fact, curiously like that of General Grant's first year. The onslaught of the land-jobbers and Indian-Ring men on Mr. Schurz, for instance, is very like that of the same classes headed by Old "Zach" Chandler on Mr. J. D. Cox. The President is now for the first time called on for a display of his real quality. If he is able to bear a year or two of isolation and rely on public opinion to drive Congressmen two years hence into acquiescence with him, he will win. If he has not the stomach for this ordeal, he will be a more melancholy failure by far than General Grant, for Grant had his military services to fall back on. The growing courage of the politicians is shown in the refusal of Mr. Arthur, doubtless under Conkling's instructions, to resign his place in the Custom-house. We are glad of this. It shows that the battle cannot be fought with soft words or pretending that the misdeeds of the politicians are merely little "omissions," which, if they do not object, it may be well for their fellow-citizens to supply.

There is a good deal of talk in the papers which are applauding the President but doubting whether he can succeed even if he tries, of the absolute necessity to him of "popular support" in his work of reform, and they tell us that unless the people come to his assistance he is sure to be beaten. We have no doubt whatever that the great body of the voters of the Republican party, certainly, heartily approve of the President's course as traced out in his letter of acceptance with regard to civil-service reform; but it seems sometimes to be forgotten that for the people to support him he must be doing something which they see and clearly comprehend. They cannot support him unless they know what he is about, and the thing he is about must be plain and distinct and simple. They will support him, for instance, in any definite and consistent policy, but they cannot support civil-service reform in which there is a considerable mixture of the old civil-service abuses. They will support him, too, in an open fight with Congress on this point, but the fight must be open and persistent. They cannot support him in hostilities which are chequered with private dickering and compromise, and of which they never know the real bearing. He

must, in short, himself lead the way, and make known his aims and motives as he goes along. "The people" cannot go on to Washington and "interview" him and the members of the Cabinet to know what is the meaning of this and that strange occurrence. They must have the issue on which they are to make a stand presented to them in their homes in black and white.

Mr. Randall's appointment of the House committees will at last, it is to be hoped, enable Congress to take up and speedily dispose of the work of the extra session, but this grows daily less probable. If we are to judge of the necessity of legislation by the number of bills and resolutions introduced into the House on Monday alone—850 in round numbers—there is plenty of work to be done. The greater number of these were, of course, private bills, of which Congress might well be rid altogether. Among those of national interest were bills referring to remonetization, the repeal of the Resumption Act, Mississippi levees, the Tenure-of-Office Act, the Geneva award, the Bankrupt Act, the tariff, Indian affairs, Presidential elections, the Paris Exhibition of 1878, etc. Mr. Randall appears to have made up his committees with a great deal of shrewdness. It is, of course, a dishonor to the country to accept Fernando Wood as chairman of the Committee of Ways and Means, and, consequently, leader of the House, and it is not evident that the composition of this committee is such as to make it distasteful to Mr. Randall's protectionist constituents. The Committee on Banking and Currency will apparently favor all the popular wild-cat schemes of finance; that on Appropriations will be rigidly economical; the Indian Affairs Committee is expected to advise a transfer of the Indian Bureau to the War Department; the Committee on Pacific Railroads is about equally divided between subsidizers and those opposed to the extension of Government aid, but the chairman, Mr. Clarkson N. Potter, is understood to oppose the Texas & Pacific subsidy. The Senate has done almost nothing except to confirm a few of the President's nominations and to receive a large additional number. Mr. John Welsh of Philadelphia was nominated for Minister to England, and is, of course, an unexceptionable choice. Mr. E. W. Stoughton was nominated for the Russian mission, and is also unexceptionable in point of fitness. Messrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Edwin A. Merritt, and L. B. Prince were nominated in the places of Arthur, Sharpe, and Cornell at the New York Custom-house. Mr. Roosevelt has every possible qualification for the Collectorship—wealth above the temptations of any office, character, great business experience—and it cannot be that the merchants of New York would lightly brook his rejection by the Senate. Messrs. Merritt and Prince, being active politicians, are in little danger of rejection.

The conclusions reached by the majority of the Silver Commission appointed by the last Congress have been given to the public, after a long period of profitless dispute among themselves. The views of the minority (Messrs. Boutwell, Gibson, and Bowen), adverse to the remonetization of silver on any basis, were published several months ago. Of the majority, three members are in favor of remonetization on the French basis of $15\frac{1}{2}$ to 1, while two members adhere to the "dollar of the fathers" and the basis of 16 to 1. It appears, therefore, that no agreement of any practical importance has been reached by a majority of the Commission, and none, we presume, of any utility has been expected, there being but one man in the whole number appointed who had any reputation for scientific training and attainments applicable to the subject-matter of the enquiry, and he not a member of Congress. The majority, although unable to agree as to the basis, are united in the opinion that the chief cause of the decline in silver since 1870 has been the demonetizing acts of Germany, the United States, and the Scandinavian countries; that the commercial crisis which afflicts America and the greater part of Europe is due to silver demonetization; that the crisis will be-

come chronic, and the business paralysis perpetual, if gold is relied upon exclusively as the standard of value; that specie resumption is not practicable unless silver is first remonetized, and may not be even then; that remonetization of silver here will probably deter France from wholly demonetizing it, but even if it should not have that effect, and if other countries should go on demonetizing, "the result for us will be an advantageous exchange of commodities which we can spare for money which we need"; and, finally, that silver remonetization would introduce a period of prosperity among us, greater in the exact proportion that other nations demonetized that metal and poured it into the United States in exchange for wheat, cotton, gold, petroleum, and whatever we have to sell.

It is humiliating that such an exhibition of rawness should be sent forth to the world as the centennial product of our political training, and it is painful to think that the business interests of a great people are exposed to the danger of having such nonsense enacted into law. As part of the movement for a speculation in gold now rife in Wall Street it is intelligible enough, but to proclaim soberly that demonetization of silver by the United States at a time when we had no silver to demonetize was one of the causes of the decline of that metal; that the commercial crisis in countries having no metallic standard whatever is due to silver demonetization somewhere else; that any advantage is to be gained from selling good breadstuffs and provisions to Europe for a bad kind of money which Europe will not take back from us except at an unknown and varying rate of discount—all this is most distressing folly. Since Congress adjourned last spring gold has fallen within $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of par. This country enjoys facilities at the present time for obtaining as much of that metal as she needs for resuming and maintaining specie payments in the due and ordinary course of trade. Sterling exchange continues below par, and gold continues to flow hither in obedience to commercial laws. Nobody makes any exertion to bring it—the Bank of England makes considerable exertions to retain it—but it comes nevertheless. In the midst of circumstances so favorable to resumption Congress comes together, and the gold premium suddenly rises to 3 per cent., while sterling exchange continues to fall—a phenomenon which would be impossible but for apprehensions of mischievous legislation, seized upon as they have been by speculators, who know that silver remonetization will advance the gold premium to the figure representing the excess of value which an ounce of the one metal possesses over sixteen ounces of the other. It would seem as though Providence, which so seldom interferes to save peoples from the effects of their own economic blunders, had set in motion so powerful a train of circumstances to restore a sound currency to the United States that naught but the utmost exertions of their rulers could frustrate and overcome it. In the common endeavor to thwart the designs of a propitious fate Senator Jones and his followers of the Silver Commission have achieved thus far the highest distinction.

General Walker, the Conservative candidate for Lieutenant-Governor of Virginia, has been so outspoken in his stump-speeches against repudiation of any kind—especially in the favorite form of readjustment—that the repudiators have started Colonel Robert A. Richardson as an independent candidate to run against him. The effect of this has been to reduce all the issues of the canvass to the single question of the payment of the State debt, and the discussions in the press and on the stump have been so full and clear that if Virginia should now vote in favor of repudiation none of the men of the country districts would be able to offer the excuse, set up recently in a similar affair for the Minnesota farmers, that they did not understand the case. General Walker in one of his speeches states that the Virginia State Agricultural Society, wishing to improve its grounds, attempted recently to borrow \$40,000 from Gilliat & Co., a firm of London bankers, offering securities valued at \$1,000,000, but the firm declined the offer with the statement that they could lend no money in Virginia "as long as the clamor about getting rid of her obligations was continued and the State was failing to meet her just debts." A few occurrences of this kind will

open the eyes of Virginian agriculturists better than any amount of stump-speaking. Taxes in Virginia are unusually low, and the refusal to increase them, if necessary, for the payment of indisputably just debts would be an instance of the baldest and most inexcusable dishonesty.

The week has been uneventful in the financial markets. As a result of the growing belief that the Resumption Act will not be repealed, and that the silver dollar will not be remonetized, or, if it is, that the legal-tender quality will be limited so as not to affect the public debt, the price of gold fell to $102\frac{1}{2}$, or within $\frac{1}{2}$ of the lowest price yet made. Exchange on London has tended downwards, on account of easier money there, due to the increase of gold in the Bank of England. Here money also has been a trifle easier for borrowers, currency shipments to the West having been checked, and those to the South having been in part neutralized by receipts from neighboring cities. The mercantile demand for money has also been less than was expected. General domestic trade has relapsed into dullness, and the foreign trade has also fallen off, in respect of imports, from the improvement shown during the early part of the year. The export trade continues active, and in volume larger than in late years. At the Stock Exchange the speculation in stocks has been tame. The gold value of the promise of the United States to pay one dollar (a U. S. legal-tender note) at the close of the week was \$0.9744. The bullion in a $412\frac{1}{2}$ -grain silver dollar would, at the close of the week, have had a gold value of \$0.9175.

Front attacks on Plevna have not been renewed since the sanguinary repulse of the Rumanians on October 19, and the Russians have begun operations looking toward the isolation of Osman Pasha's army by the occupation of positions in his rear, west of the Vid. A portion of the Imperial Guard having crossed that river north of Plevna, and Gourko's cavalry having done the same south of it, both forces united in an attack, October 24, on Ahmed Hifzi Pasha's fortified position between Gorni Dubnik and Telish, about fifteen miles W.S.W. of Plevna. Simultaneously, it appears, lively demonstrations were made in front of the latter town, in order to prevent Osman Pasha from detaching troops for the rescue of Hifzi. This pasha, though poorly supplied with artillery, for ten hours stubbornly defended his position, but was finally overwhelmed and captured with several battalions and four guns, after inflicting on his assailants a loss of two thousand and five hundred men, as they officially report. His own loss in killed and wounded is variously stated. General Gourko then fortified his position on the Sophia road, and, on the 25th, Telish, defended by a small garrison, was surrounded by two brigades of infantry and two of cavalry, and captured after a terrific bombardment. The transfer, just reported, of the headquarters of Prince Charles from Poradim to Bogot, seems to indicate the intention of placing the Rumanian army in a position from which it could support the newly-gained posts against both Osman and Shefket Pashas.

Suleiman Pasha reports two repulses of the Tzesarevitch's troops, suffered in attacks on the outworks of Rustchuk, on October 25, and on the Turkish lines on the Kara Lom north of Solenik, apparently on the same day. In the latter affair he states their loss in killed to have been eight hundred. The Russians are silent about both fights, but report the death of Prince Sergius Leuchtenberg, a nephew of the Czar, "in a recent reconnaissance of the Tzesarevitch." The death of that young prince, following so closely on the Emperor's declaration that all the members of his family were going to stay and share the labors of the army, will serve to show the Russian nation that the announcement was not an empty boast. The recently-begun movement, however, seems to have come to a stand-still, owing in great part to a lack of effective means of transportation, which, it is now asserted, makes a winter campaign in those parts impossible. General Zimmermann is reported to be making preparations for again attempting the siege of Silistria, an enterprise in which he failed in summer, after a very feeble effort. Suleiman Pasha, far from discarding the ways of his Occidental predecessor in the chief com-

mand, has made a Pole his chief-of-staff, and a Belgian a commander of cavalry.

The latest military movements in Asia have all been marked by rapidity, but nothing of a decisive character has taken place. Mukhtar Pasha, wisely avoiding shutting himself up in Kars, successively fell back before Loris-Melikoff on Yenikööl, Khorasan, and Köprikööl, at the junction of the roads from Kars and Diadin, where he was joined by Ismail Pasha retreating from Russian Armenia, and has with him retired to Hassan Kaleh, a strong position about twenty-five miles E.N.E. of Erzerum. Loris-Melikoff's troops, closely following, have approached Köprikööl. Tergukassoff, who pursued an unbroken enemy and had to contend with formidable natural obstacles, can hardly have made a considerable advance; but his troops have occupied Bayazid. Kars is now more or less completely blockaded. An attack on one of its forts is reported to have been repulsed. All the commanders concerned seem this time to have understood the importance of hours in military operations. As no collision between the retreating and pursuing forces, and no capture of abandoned artillery, ammunition, or baggage is reported, the advantage thus far may be said to be on the side of the Turks. A few days must show whether Loris-Melikoff has crossed the Soghanlu Mountains with a force sufficiently strong to dislodge Mukhtar, throw him back upon Erzerum, and attack him there, or whether the Russian line of communication has again become too much extended for safety.

The English interest in the Russo-Turkish war and the Indian famine seems to have been nearly overshadowed by the interest in the "Penge case," in which four persons, two men and two women, have been convicted of murdering the wife of one of the men by neglect—that is, she being weakminded and an invalid, by withholding from her sufficient food and proper care. The principal witness of the progress of the neglect is a servant-girl of sixteen, who is said to have the imaginativeness and frivolity of that age, and the condition of the deceased after death seemed to corroborate her story. The presumed motive was the desire of the husband to get rid of a disagreeable burden and be able to marry his mistress. The women were recommended to mercy, but the execution of the men was ordered, when there was a great popular "uprising," and the case was actually retried in the newspapers, with the result of obtaining a pardon for one of the women and commutation of sentence to imprisonment for life for the rest. The strong point of the newspaper correspondents was that it was impossible to tell, in many cases, where to draw the line between preventable and unpreventable emaciation, and dozens of cases were cited of mysterious wasting away in spite of every attention. It is more, however, as an illustration of the growing tendency of the public to trial by newspaper than of the mysteries of medical jurisprudence that the case is remarkable. On reading the articles and letters about it, one wonders, as one has so often wondered in this country in recent instances, what is the use of keeping courts up when you can get the work of judge, jury, and Court of Appeals done by the press?

The most prominent and enduring topic of interest in England has been the labor question. Strikes still continue in the great trades, and, the masters maintain, with the effect of gradually ruining or crippling British industry. The great strike in the cotton trade at Bolton, which has lasted six or seven weeks, has, we believe, come to an end, after keeping 12,000 persons idle, causing terrible suffering and the loss of nearly half a million dollars, and great discouragement among manufacturers. There has been another long strike among the masons in London, which the masters attempted to meet, to some extent, by the importation of masons from this country, but they have had in most cases to concede the demands of the men. The iron trade everywhere continues in a most depressed condition, and a great reduction of wages or a "lock-out" is impending. Mr. Crawshay, the owner of the famous iron-works at Cyfartha in Wales, which were closed some time ago after a prosperous existence in

the hands of the same family of over one hundred and fifty years' announees, in answer to a letter of enquiry, that they will never be reopened by him, and that he trusts his sons will not attempt it either, but will go out of the business, so disgusted is he with the conduct of the men, and so hopeless about them. Sir Edmund Beckett in the meantime continues his letters in the *London Times* on the effect of trades-union regulations and morality on the national industry and national prospects, and seems to have little difficulty in overthrowing the writers whom the unionists put forward in their defence.

The news from France is, as far as it goes, good. It appears to be all but certain that the Ministers, after thinking it over, will resign about the 7th November—that is, after having had two days of the parliamentary session in which to defend themselves. They showed themselves too small-minded during the canvass for the prosecution of any such desperate enterprise as a *coup d'état* or government without the aid of the Assembly, and reflection has probably destroyed what little courage they had. The bulk of their support, as our Paris correspondent shows elsewhere, came from the Bonapartists, and these were so brazen and audacious during the canvass in the display of their desire for the Empire that they have probably alarmed and disgusted the Orleanists and Legitimists who for the moment enlisted under the Marshal's banner, so that he cannot count on a majority in the Senate in support of any extreme course, and most likely has found out that even the 96 Monarchists who have been returned to the new Assembly will fail him, and that his only sure supporters are the 112 Bonapartists. Under these circumstances he probably concludes, and MM. de Broglie and Fourtou agree with him, that the job of "saving society" from the Radicals had better be given up. If the ministers resign, as now predicted, it will be the most important event in French history since the overthrow of the First Empire, and probably contains more promise of peace and progress than anything that could happen. To have met such tactics as the Ministers have employed, and such designs as they have entertained, openly and boldly at the polls, and defeated them, is a lesson in government such as Frenchmen have never had. The defeat of the Ministers of Charles X., in 1830, by a fight in the streets was hailed by European liberals as a glorious event, but it had in it the seeds of unnumbered woes for France. It bred two insurrections against Louis Philippe, the *coup d'état*, and the Commune, and infused the fighting virus into the blood of the city working classes.

The Pope's increasing weakness, in conjunction with the French crisis, is raising another cloud of considerable size in the European sky. No one now doubts that the MacMahon onslaught on the French Constitution has Ultramontane influence at the bottom, and it has caused a still closer *rapprochement* between the German and Italian Cabinets, and the evidently impending election of a new Pope is causing more or less anxiety. The Italian Government is pursuing a policy of contemptuous indifference to all that happens in the Vatican, so that there is a possibility that the Pope may be dead for twenty-four hours before the world outside knows it, and even that the managing Cardinals may have arranged a conclave and election within that interval, so that the Catholic world will hear of the new Pope and of the death of the old one at the same moment. The principal reason for believing that this will not happen is that it would explode the story which the Ultramontanists carefully adhere to and spread, that the Pope is a close prisoner, and his attendants as well (the priests in Belgium have, indeed, been exhibiting to the peasantry wisps of the straw on which he lies in his dungeon). The principal reason for believing it is that the Ultramontanes really dread the interference of the Italian and, perhaps, Austrian Governments if the election be delayed. It will make a good deal of difference to both Italy and Germany what kind of man the new Pope is, as, with all their success and prosperity, the relations of their Government to the Catholic Church furnish the great difficulty of their politics, and with the increasing strength of Ultramontanism it is likely to grow rather than diminish.

THE PRESIDENT AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

ALL the news from Washington seems to show that the President has reached that critical period in his career as a reformer when he must either succeed once for all or succumb once for all. There is not a single feature in the crisis, however, which can be called unexpected. The civil-service abuse which Mr. Hayes is called on to reform does not consist simply in the fact that offices are filled by incompetent persons, and that the tenure of office is not such as to encourage probity and diligence in the incumbents. It consists also in the graver facts—graver because more difficult to deal with—that the provisions of the Constitution which gave the appointing power to the Executive have been gradually set aside; that this power has been virtually seized, and is firmly held, by the legislature, and not by the legislature either, but by individual legislators; and that the Executive is now relegated to the humble rôle of making out commissions for officers whom Representatives and Senators have selected. The deplorable effects of this perversion on legislation and administration have been much dwelt on and are well known. The evil was fully recognized and described by implication in the fifth resolution of the Cincinnati platform on which President Hayes was elected. It said:

"Under the Constitution, the President and heads of departments are to make nominations for office; the Senate is to advise and consent to appointments, and the House of Representatives is to accuse and prosecute faithless officers. The best interests of the public service demand that these distinctions be respected, that Senators and Representatives who may be judges and accusers should not dictate appointments to office. The invariable rule for appointments should have reference to the honesty, fidelity, and capacity of appointees, giving to the party in power those places where harmony and vigor of administration require its policy to be represented, but permitting all others to be filled by persons selected with sole reference to efficiency of the public service, and the right of citizens to share in the honor of rendering faithful service to their country."

This resolution is a terse and clear statement of the evil and the remedy. It is not an abstract proposition in the science of government. It is a promise of the reform of an actual abuse by a party asking for a fresh lease of power. Now, who are the authors and perpetrators of this abuse? Not the farmers, or doctors, or lawyers, or ministers, or mechanics, or laborers, or any class of the community but members of Congress. The abuse consists of Congressional usurpation of Executive functions, and the opposition to the reform, therefore, comes—in the natural course of things was expected to come, and has hitherto come—from members of Congress. It is *their* pride, or prejudice, or interest it proposes to touch. It was *they* who defeated Grant's attempt to carry it out. Many of them owe their place in public life to the abuse itself; many more enjoy the exercise of the power which it gives them; others who dislike it are afraid to assail it, lest their hostility to it should work their political ruin. This is all so notorious that probably there is not a grown man in the country who did not know when Mr. Hayes was elected that if he attempted to carry out the civil-service plank of the platform he would come in collision at once with the Congressional members of his own party: that they would fight, openly or behind disguises, in defence of their unlawful privileges, and that his success would depend on his having courage enough, and public support enough, to withstand them. The signs of Congressional revolt against him on account of his civil-service order, therefore, are nothing surprising, and ought not, supposing him to have well weighed the task he has undertaken, to be anything alarming. The assemblage of malcontents at Secretary Sherman's the other day was not large, and it contained the very men whom everybody knew without asking would be among the foremost opponents of any change in the present mode of distributing the patronage. If the civil service is not to be reformed until they, and such as they, agree to it, and decide in what manner it shall be done, we shall certainly never see it reformed.

By itself their demonstration would perhaps not be very serious.

But, as might be expected, we are witnessing a strong effort on the part of all the opponents of reform, and a considerable portion of the Republican press is joining in it, to produce the impression that the Washington gathering only gave expression to widespread dissatisfaction, of which the Ohio election is another striking indication. Even papers professedly friendly to the Administration try to undermine the President's position, or to shake his own confidence in it by pretending that there is a mysterious body of persons, called "theorists," who are proposing to him all sorts of fantastic schemes, though the nature of these schemes is never described; that there is a practical kind of reform and a visionary kind, and we are given to understand that the former consists in the old plan of "putting none but good men in office," and that the present system has strong elements of adaptability to American human nature, while any resort to rules and regulations would savor of monarchy and aristocracy and fill the community with disgust. All this is insinuated rather than said. The guilty "theorists" are never produced or their ridiculous plans made known; and the "practical men" in the meantime carefully refrain from any suggestions more minute or readier for execution than the Conkling plan, which is of about as much value to the President in the present exigency as the Sermon on the Mount. The object is plainly to demoralize the President and his advisers; to give them the feeling that "they have gone too far," and that the opposition of Congressmen indicates the hostility or indifference of the country.

The brunt of the attack is of course directed against the late order forbidding officers to participate in caucuses or conventions. The President is, we take it, sagacious enough to see that any order prescribing any reform in detail, or calling for anything but a general display of virtue in the Chinese fashion, would have been received in the same way. No "particular measure" will meet the approval of Congressmen and politicians, and if they can break down his resolution on any particular measure, and force him to retract or modify it, it will answer their purpose, because every subsequent attempt at reform would be discredited at the outset by the confessed lack of judgment shown in the first. The arguments used against the order show to what an extent the Jacksonian system has distorted men's conceptions of the nature and object of governmental administration. There is no more impropriety or tyranny in requiring an officeholder to abstain from electioneering—nay, much less—in requiring a merchant's clerk to do so. Any requirement is proper which is necessary to his efficiency and to the good of the service to which he belongs, and which is no violation of the contract with him. It is not tyranny or impropriety to ask a soldier—citizen though he be—to submit himself to the arbitrary commands of his officer, because he agreed to do so and expected to do so when he enlisted. There is, therefore, absolutely no objection to imposing a restriction on any activity of office-holders to which they agree to submit. If the present incumbents do not like it, they can withdraw, and President Hayes would be perfectly justified—nay, would be highly commendable—in filling their places with men entirely free of the electioneering itch.

It is, of course, for the President to judge what are the practical difficulties in the way of executing the order, and to judge of his own ability to overcome them. There is one thing we can tell him, however, which is, that if his heart fails him before any difficulties which are as yet apparent, he is not the man for the place he fills or the times he lives in. He is contending with an old evil of Anglo-Saxon polities which showed itself in England before the birth of this Republic, and had much to do with causing the revolt of the colonies, and came near ruining English liberty. George III. carried on the kind of government which a set of men among us are trying to erect on the ruins of that which Washington founded—the government of a corrupt executive, supported by a corrupt legislative majority, bribed for the purpose by the privilege of distributing places in the public service among their friends. It was in this way that Lord North's ministry was kept in office for so many weary and ruinous years, and in this system the

tidewaiter and exciseman played just the part he plays in ours. The Marquis of Rockingham, at the downfall of Lord North, refused to undertake the formation of a new ministry unless he could, among other things, bring in bills to deprive contractors of seats in the House of Commons and revenue officers even of "their votes at elections." Indeed our "courtesy of the Senate," or the corrupt custom which has grown up among Senators of abandoning their sworn duty under the Constitution to examine and pass upon *all* nominations submitted to them by the President, and leaving those of each State to be dealt with by *one* Senator as he pleases without enquiry, to suit his own whim or private interest, is worthy of the North majority in the House of Commons or the intriguers at Versailles under Louis XV.

At this writing there seems to be some doubt as to whether Mr. Evarts's request that the Pennsylvania delegation should recommend some one for the English mission was not a joke intended to bring that worthy body of politicians into disrepute. If so, it has proved a great failure, as it has been taken in solemn earnest; but if seriously made, it is to be observed that it also was a direct defiance of the Cincinnati platform, and was an evasion of a constitutional duty of the same character as "the courtesy of the Senate." It is the President's business to find a proper person himself for the English mission. He has no right under any circumstances to impose it on the Congressmen of any State. To impose it on them under present circumstances was a direct violation of the promises of the party platform and of his own letter of acceptance, and as direct and conspicuous an encouragement as he could give to the ideas and practices which stand in the way of a "thorough, radical, and complete reform" of the civil service. In proposing Cameron for the place, the delegation, far from "insulting the Administration," acted in strict accordance with the old party usage. Under that usage he—corrupt, base, unscrupulous, ignorant, and disgraced as he is—was the man who was entitled to it.

Another unfavorable sign of the times is the manner in which the now famous order forbidding the participation of office-holders in the working of caucuses and conventions has been dealt with. This order was the first and most necessary step in the reform. It was needed not simply to deliver the work of nomination from official manipulation, but to break up a bad habit of mind among the Government employees; to bring home to them the fact which they have long forgotten, that politics is no more their business than that of the men of any other calling. It did not go further than was necessary. It did not, in our minds, go far enough. In order to make it a help to permanent reform, reform which will survive Mr. Hayes's Administration, it should have forbidden the participation of office-holders in any canvass or in any election, except by voting, and for the simple and plain and unanswerable reason that, in a free country governed by party, discipline and permanency in the civil service are impossible if the victorious party is liable after an election to find important public offices filled with persons who have been abusing, ridiculing, and perhaps slandering their candidates. We could not, for instance, ask Mr. Tilden, had he been successful, to put up with the presence in important custom-houses, post-offices, or marshals'hips of men who, for six months before the election, had been accusing him on the stump of fraud, swindling, deceit, and breach of trust. It would be asking too much of human nature; and the civil service, like other things, must be adapted to human nature. In short, a reformed civil service filled with active politicians is a chimera, and we fear most of those who are asking for it know it to be a chimera.

The amount of explanation and commentary the order has since received in order to make it agreeable to the politicians whom Mr. Hayes was elected to resist, ending with an official gloss from the Attorney-General, though it may not have altered its terms, has, by encouraging office-holders to activity in the canvass, of course gone far to deprive it of moral weight. The President's and Secretary Sherman's illustration of its meaning, by pointing to the Secretary's own participation in the Ohio canvass, shows forgetfulness of the im-

portant and fundamental distinction made in the Cincinnati platform between the higher officers of the Government, such as the Cabinet ministers, who must of necessity be changed with every administration, and who "represent its policy," and the subordinate officers, whose permanence is called for by every public interest, and who therefore ought to be shut out from any participation in electioneering that tends to make their permanency difficult or undesirable. Mr. Sherman will have to go out when the new President comes in; the collectors and marshals and postmasters ought not to do so, and they ought not to be allowed, therefore, to pursue any course in public which may put them in a false position towards their future superior, or make them objects of suspicion or dislike to him, or make their hearty obedience to him, and support of his administration in the line of their duty, doubtful.

Mr. Hayes has probably found the Ohio election and the interpretations put on it trying to his nerves. We have received with regard to it, from a gentleman in Washington who had peculiar facilities for observation, and was in Ohio during the canvass, a letter, not intended for publication, from which we make the following extract, for it goes to the root of the disaster, his remarks applying, *mutatis mutandis*, to the coming election in Pennsylvania :

"I am greatly struck with your remarks upon the means employed in the preceding canvass, and the utterly unprepared state of the Republican mind for an appreciation of the present state of political facts. The truth is, the leaders fought the battle last year on extinct issues, and endeavored to fight it this year on the fossils of the last. Wherever the people looked—Republicans I mean—they saw that 'utter nothing' which Pollock says lies about hell. The speakers, with rare exceptions, dared not discuss the President's policy or his order to the office-holders, though these presented the only matter that admitted of effective speaking. Matthews utterly bedeviled the platform to start with, and, if I may believe what a number of the delegates to the Convention said to me as to the immediate effects of West's speech on the thoughtful men who heard it, it was more disastrous than was generally supposed. To one who has not thought of the effect of the last canvass—your view—the indications were that the party was breaking up. I found party squabbles in every county: a turning by many to a secret organization which they call the O. A. U.; and the green-back vote, the labor reform, etc., were to me indications in the same direction. I found in the coal and iron regions that the underground workers were generally Democrats, while the iron-workers were Republicans; and many of the former voted the workingmen's ticket, as of course did the latter. It is to be remembered that there had been two fiercely-contested elections preceding the present, which would account for great apathy. And then to the average mind the Republican party was at this disadvantage: This is the twelfth year since the war, and during all the troubles which the country has suffered, that party was continuously in power. It could not, or would not—did not relieve the country of them, and there was, or is, a growing disposition to hold it responsible for them. There certainly should be no reason why the Republican party should disappear. After all, is not the Democratic party composed of elements, not of an exalted character, which give it perpetuity; and, perhaps, the only one, which will occasionally secure power and hold it, till the natural results of its working the Government will induce a temporary organization of the higher and better elements for its overthrow, to disappear, and reappear in new forms, as an exigency may arise? I had thought that the Republican party had the capacity to take and assimilate new ideas and work them out in new policies—could make itself flexible, and progress. It certainly has not well accommodated itself to the present exigencies; and a party which is made up largely of the intelligent, that cannot do this, must fail, while one which embodies the ignorant will easily survive, perhaps."

This is the real truth of the matter. The decay of the Republican party began before the Presidential election. The President, with "the machine" working as it never worked before, with the politicians in possession of everything they now ask for, and with the "bloody shirt" streaming from every flagstaff, and troops in the state-houses at Columbia and New Orleans, was last year only able to carry his own State by 7,000 majority. The decline continues, and it can only be arrested, not by "harmony" about office-jobbery, not

by the zeal of postmasters and gingers, or tidewaiters, but by great measures of administrative reform, by the possession of ideas, in short, on great public needs, and by the capacity to embody them in legislation. Mr. Hayes evidently comprehended the crisis, and entered on the only course that can possibly save the party from utter defeat in 1880. If he is too faint-hearted to follow it, and the Congressional members of the party are too stupid and selfish to support him, the end is certain, and will be well merited.

THE PRESENT STATE OF THE TURCO-RUSSIAN STRUGGLE.

IT is just possible, but not probable, that the Russians may accomplish something decisive before the close of the fine weather, which, in Bulgaria, often lasts through November. A second campaign, in fact, now seems most likely. But the events of the last fortnight, the crushing defeat of Mukhtar Pasha in Armenia, and the establishment of a Russian force on Osman Pasha's communications southwest of Plevna, are of considerable moment, and have already effected a somewhat curious change in public opinion about the prospects of the combatants. When the war opened there was very general expectation that the Turks would be brought to their knees readily in one campaign, and it was shared even by those who thought most highly of the Turkish troops. It was based upon the belief that, excellent as the individual Turkish soldier was, the Turkish army was too badly organized and too badly commanded to be capable of manoeuvring in the open; that, therefore, it would confine itself to the defence of the great fortresses, and would show behind earthworks its old courage and tenacity, both of which would probably be heightened by the possession of the breechloader; that the Russians would, however, cross the Danube in such force as, even with moderate generalship, to enable them to mask the fortresses and send detachments of sufficient strength across the Balkans to overthrow any hasty levies collected to oppose them, and dictate peace, as before, at Adrianople, if not further south. That this was the Russian plan and hope the earlier operations of the campaign leave little doubt. The Danube was successfully and skilfully crossed. Nicopolis was taken by a *coup de main*, the garrison disappointing the military world by a feeble resistance. General Gourko then burst across the Balkans, seizing the Shipka Pass by a clever manoeuvre, and pushed straight for Adrianople with twelve thousand men. Meeting Raouf Pasha with fifteen thousand men on the way, he not only defeated, but dispersed his force, and, had he had fifty thousand men, could have gone on. But the momentum of ten thousand was soon spent. Reinforcements did not come to him. Baron Kridener had neglected to occupy Plevna after the capture of Nicopolis, and when he turned his attention to it he found it occupied by a powerful Turkish force squatted behind great earthworks, from which he was too feeble to dislodge it by assault. The result was that Gourko had to come back, driven into the Balkans by Suleiman Pasha, who had had time to come up rapidly from Montenegro, and that Plevna rose suddenly into a fortress of the first rank, cooping up the Russians between it and Rustchuk and Shunla. All this seems to have been mainly due to the numerical feebleness of the Russians. The troops which crossed the river were not equal to the job as planned.

Events had taken a very similar course in Asia. There, too, the Russians had had a run of rapid success, until the Turks, concentrated in a strong and fortified position at Zevin, achieved one of their old-fashioned successes against an assault recklessly delivered by an inferior force far from its base in a desolate country.

There then occurred the first change in public opinion, and, like all changes which take place at the beginning of a war, it was very violent. The Russians fell into the lowest contempt. Their generals first incurred it, and finally the rank and file, while the Turks rose correspondingly, until not only were their soldiers pronounced superior to the Russians, but the pashas received the rank of accomplished strategists, who would now take the Russians in hand and probably close the war. For Abdul Kerim Pasha, who had allowed the Danube to be crossed without resistance, there was not much

said; but he was removed. Mehemet Ali Pasha, a German, was put in command at Shunla; he was to assail the Russian left and roll them up on Osman Pasha, and the two combined were to throw them into the Danube, while Suleiman Pasha was either to force the Shipka Pass and drive in their front from Tirnova or was to go around and reinforce Mehemet Ali. The Czar, seeing all this and knowing how it would end, and perceiving that the campaign in Asia had been closed by the advance of Mukhtar Pasha to the gates of Alexandropol, was to get some other Power to mediate so as to enable him to abandon the enterprise with some vestige of credit.

The second stage of the operations was then entered, and the Turks began to exhibit their strategy. Mehemet Ali began his advance, drove in the Russians, who resisted but feebly, from the line of the Lom, and up to the Yantra, where he was to administer the final blow. But on reaching the Yantra and feeling the enemy again, he came to the conclusion that he was worse off there than he had been on the Lom; so in three or four days he retreated to his former position, and when the news reached Constantinople he was promptly dismissed as no better than Abdul Kerim Pasha. In the meantime Suleiman Pasha had spent two months in trying to force the Shipka Pass, sitting in his tent, eye-witnesses report, smoking cigarettes, and ordering repeated assaults of impregnable positions whenever the humor seized him, his best troops melting away, his camp a charnel-house, and the once lovely country behind him a waste strewn with unburied corpses and smoking ruins—the work of irregulars, whom he made no attempt to control; the other passes, too—and this gives the full measure of the man—were all the time open to him, and Mehemet Ali vainly calling on him to reinforce him for the movement against the Russian left. After having lost 20,000 men in the Shipka Pass he abandoned the attempt to force it, and was appointed Mehemet Ali's successor. In short, the history of his career and Mehemet Ali's shows that the Turks are no better off, as regards generals, or as regards the condition of the administrative mind at Constantinople, than they ever were in former wars, or than people supposed them to be last May. Nor has Osman Pasha shown any advance on his predecessors in the old wars. He had the good sense to seize a strong position and fortify it, and has troops who stick to a parapet with bulldog tenacity, but he has not shown the slightest ability or disposition to join in any combination outside his works. He made no attempt to follow up his first repulse of Krüdener, and showed not the slightest sign of a wish to co-operate with Mehemet Ali when the latter made his movement on the Lom.

In Asia, Mukhtar Pasha appears to have remained on the frontier in fancied security until the Russians had reorganized and reinforced their army under his nose, and where they could get at him in a day's march from their base, and then allowed himself to be cut in two, and one-third of his force captured, and Kars is now again invested, and this time probably by a force which cannot be driven off. If Osman Pasha is well supplied and can stand a winter's siege, it is as contrary to all experience of Turkish foresight and organization as the notion that the Turks had three great strategists operating against the Russians in Bulgaria was opposed to all experience of Turkish generalship. If he fights his way out and retires in good order, he will accomplish a feat without precedent in Turkish history. But thus far everything has gone in regular Turkish fashion. It is the Russians really who have disappointed the world, but the Russians would not be the nation they are, and would not have pushed their frontier to the Danube and the Himalayas, if they learned nothing from the experience of the last four months, and were thrown into despair by any resistance the Turks have yet been able to offer them. They are struggling now desperately with the problem of saving their financial credit while continuing the war; but no one, whom interest in the struggle does not deprive of memory and judgment, as seems in nearly every war to happen to a portion of the English press, can doubt that they will, if need be, sacrifice their credit sooner than loose their hold on the Turkish throat.

FOREIGN NAMES.

III.

To localities and persons belonging to countries more or less directly ruled by the British, as a matter of course, names in English forms or names adopted by the English are to be applied. In most cases the names are fully established by usage, and however strange the spelling may be, it must be adhered to, as long as we submit, in this country, to the observance of such substitution of signs for sounds as *Shawangunk* for Shonggum. Nothing more barbarous will be discovered among the names referring to Canada, Australia, Cape Colony, or any other of the domains of Great Britain. The whole of India, native as well as properly British, with all its history and literature, falls in this category. English consonants and English vowels, in their most common signification, must be made to represent sounds originating in Sanskrit, Pali, Tamil, Telugu, Cingalese, and other languages. And the most customary spellings appear to be the most appropriate, at least until the lately officially introduced forms, deviating from the traditional ones, are adopted by a large number of leading writers on East India topics. However desirable the change from arbitrary ways to rational rules may be, it is yet too early for popular writers on a variety of subjects, who cannot claim the privileges of learned specialists, to write *Kasmir*, *Rajpooti*, *Bhutia*, *Punjib*, *Satlej*, *Narbadá*, *Láhor*, *Mullán*, *Húgli*, *Nasir Uddin*, *Jahil Uddin*, *Siraj ud Daulá*, instead of *Cashmere*, *Rajpoolana*, *Bootan*, *Punjaub*, *Sutlej*, *Nerbudda*, *Lahore*, *Mooltan*, *Hoogly*, *Nasireddin* or *Nasir ed-Din*, *Jelaleddin*, *Surajah Dowlah*.

Names belonging to the independent countries of the East whose recent history is closely connected with that of the British advance in that part of the world, such as Afghanistan, Beloochistan, Burmah, Siam, and China, follow the rule applying to British India. It is by British travellers and merchants, generals and governors, that the names have been introduced or made popular among English-speaking people, and the forms introduced have become established and historically traditional. It is therefore proper to write *Cabool*, *Candahar*, *Ghuzni*, *Peshawer*, *Hindo Koosh*, *Belooches*, *Kelat*, *Rangoon*, *Irrawaddy*, *Foochow*, *Chingchoo*, instead of the literally more accurate *Kabul*, *Kandahar*, *Ghazni*, *Peshawar*, *Hindu Kush*, *Baluches*, *Khelat*, *Rangun*, *Irauwalli*, *Fuchau*, *Tehingchu*. Names belonging to all other parts of Asia, excepting a number popularly figuring in history or travels, such as Samareand, Mecca, Mocha, or Genghis, are subject to transliteration from the original languages. And so are also all African names, excepting those belonging to countries ruled by European nations, whose spellings—French in Algeria, Portuguese, Spanish, English, or Dutch in other parts—must be observed. Well-established historical names, such as Cairo, Tripoli, or Algiers, will naturally form exceptions.

We now come to the principal part of our subject, the rules of transliteration, such as are to be applied, with the restrictions above alluded to, to names belonging to the Russian, Serb, Bulgarian, Turkish, Persian, Hebrew, Arabic, and all other languages which use an alphabet different from the Roman. Among these is to be included the Wallach or Ruman language, which uses two alphabets, of which the Roman is changed from our forms by a number of peculiar marks. The general rule is this: Use the consonants in the English, and the vowels in the Continental acceptation of their sounds, the former in an unmistakable way. Let us specify.

Use *tch*, not the dubious *ch*, nor the German *tch*, nor the Polish *cz*, for expressing the terminal consonant sound contained in *hatch*, *hitch*, *couch*; thus: *Kamchatka*, *Tchad*, *Tchernaveda*, and not *Kamechatka*, *Chad*, or *Czernavoda*, which are all liable to mispronunciation. The imitation of German renderings is here productive of the strangest and most unpronounceable combinations. It is bad enough that we have to employ five consonants in order to render one with which the Russian begins the names *Shtcherbatoff*, *Shtchukin*: is it not absurd to add two others, which are needed in German, but just deprive our English combination of any meaning, and to write thus: *Schtscherbatoff*, *Seltschukin*? One of the commonest, and the least pardonable, mistakes in English is the rendering in various forms, by the same writers, of the Russian terminal syllable *vitch*, always corresponding to our *son* in *Johnson*, *Robertson*, etc. Thus, even so excellent a work as the ‘Encyclopaedia of Chronology,’ by Woodward and Cates (1872), has “Lermontov . . . Ivanovich,” “Dolgorouki . . . Fedorovitch,” “Bogdanowitz . . . Fedorowicz,” and many similarly contradictory patronymics. In Polish names, like *Mickiewicz*, *Nicmewicz*, only *wiecz* is correct, that being the Poles’ own spelling in *Roman letters*.

Use *j* as the common equivalent of the German *esch* and Fr. *dj* in Slavic, Asiatic, and African names, writing *Tunja*, *Eski Jema*, *Bazarjik*, *Kainarji*, *Jiddah*, *Jebel el-Jourf*, *Abulfaraif*, *Jeziresh*, and *dj* only between vowels, as in *Dobrudja*, *Khedja Baikan*, *Aladja Dagh*, *Nedjed*, *Hedjaz*, in order to indicate clearly the shortness of the first vowel. *Kostenje*, however, seems to be too firmly established in English usage to be changed into *Kustenje*. Palgrave, in his ‘Central and Eastern Arabia,’ often strangely reverses the rule, writing *Djouf*, *Djabbah*, *Hijaz*, *Nejd*.

In the same class of names *sh* is the equivalent of the Hebrew *shin*, German *sch*, and French *ch*. Write *Shammui*, *Shemtob*, *Hashem*, *Dushkin*, *Milosh*, *Shuratoff*, *Shumla*, *Pilishat*, *Rulishevo*, *Shefki*; not *Schemmuai*, etc., *Radichero*, *Cheket*.

Zh is our best equivalent for the French *j*, for which the Germans in maps and books now frequently use *sh* (or *z*, as they also use *é* for our *tch*, and *s* for *sh*). Write *Nizhni Narygorod*, *Zhitomir*, *Voronezh*, *Dervzhavia*, *Pozharski*, *Zhukovski*; not *Nijní*, *Jitomir*, *Voronei*, as the French write, and after them many English geographers, including A. Keith Johnston.

Tz and *ts* are equally good for the transliteration of the corresponding sound in Hebrew, Russian, and other languages; yet we prefer the former, which agrees with the German, in Semitic, Slavic, and other names, such as *Tzarphati*, *Tzana*, *Verontzoff*, *Olonetz*, *Tzitzyn*, and the now so often mentioned *Grivitz*, *Levatz*, and *Vratza*, and *ts* in Japanese names, such as *Satsuma*, *Matsumata*, or *Butsu*, which follow the usage established by the English in Chinese names (*Yangtse*, *Tients’n*, *Tsinan*, etc.). Great caution must be observed in transliterating after German maps, some geographers applying West-Slavic spellings to South-Slavic countries. Thus, Kanitz’s latest map of Bulgaria has *Grivitsa*, *Lovet*, *Vraen*.

Y is the general equivalent for the Semitic *yod*, as well as for the German *j*, the copying of which must be strictly avoided. Write *Yachi*, *Yomtob*, *Yakub*, *Yusuf*, *Yezid*, *Yermak*, *Tchernayeff*, *Yeri*, *Zaghra*, *Yeniköi*, not *Jarhi*, etc. Among the few exceptions founded on usage is *Bajazet*; *Jassy* and *Janina* it is perhaps time to abandon for *Yassy* and *Yanina*. After a consonant in the same syllable *i* is properly substituted, as in *Biela* (for *Byela* = Ger. *Biela*), and *ai*, *ei*, *oi*, *ui* are used instead of the stricter forms *ay*, *ey* (= Ger. *ai*, *ej*), etc., as in *Turukai*, *Alexi*, *Tolstoi*, *Shuiski*. After *i* the *y*, corresponding to the German *j* in similar positions, is dropped, as in *Dolni Monastyr*, *Gorni Dubnik*, *Dolgoruki*, *Barefjnski*.

For a discriminating use of *v* and *w* a few important rules can be established. *W* prevails in Arabic names, such as *Moawiyah*, *Meivan*, *Walid*, *Abul-Wef*, *Massowah*, or *Asswan*, and *v* is exclusively to be used in Russian, South-Slavic, and Wallach names. The Russian, Serb, Bulgarian, and Wallach contain no such sound or letter as *w* (while the Polish has only the letter, which is equivalent to our *v*). To write, as is but too often done, *Paskewitch*, *Wasili*, *Wolhyina*, *Wladimir*, or *Wolglia*, is, therefore, just as improper as to write, in Hebrew or Greek history, *Levi* for *Levi*, *Washti* for *Vashti*, or *Ewagoras* for *Evagoras*, *Wlina* (derived from the Polish *Wlodek*) and *Widla* the exceptions founded on historical usage. In the terminal syllables of Russian names of places, such as *Azov*, *Tambov*, *Kozlov*, *Saratov*, *Tchernigov*, *Pskov*, *Ostrov*, *Kishinev*, *Kiev*, *ov* and *ev* are properly used where the Russians have the corresponding letters, but pronounce *off*, *eff*, yet not in the oblique cases. In similarly-ending family names, such as *Romanoff*, *Orloff*, *Lermontoff*, *Melikoff*, *Ignatieff*, *Skobeleff*, and *Lazareff*, the sound is followed instead of the letter, owing to the habit of the Russians of so signing their own names, as pronounced in the nominative, whenever they use the Roman alphabet in correspondence with Englishmen or Frenchmen. Eugene Schuyler (‘Turkistan,’ 1876) and D. Mackenzie Wallace use in both classes of names *of* and *ef*, which, if consistently done, can, of course, not be objected to.

Kh answers to the full guttural sound (Ger. *ch*, Sp. *j*) in Slavic, Turkish, Tartar, Persian, and other Eastern names, such as *Kherson*, *Kharakov*, *Astrakhan*, *Kiakhta*, *Akhaltzikh*, *Khiva*, *Khorasan*, *Khuzistan*, *Nakhimoff*, *Mukhtar*, *Khurshid*; *h* answers to softer gutturals in Eastern tongues, as in the names *Hariri* (Ger. *Chariri*), *Harizi*, *Hefetz*, *Ahmed* (as in the Biblical *Hebron*, *Heshbon*, *Hiddekel*, *Hiram*), as well as to the Hebrew *he* (Ger. *h*); *k* (in non-Biblical names) to both the Semitic *kaph* and *koph*, as in *Zakkai*, *Akiba*, *Korish*, *Sakkara*. *Ch*, though good in classical and Biblical names, has no place whatever in strict English transliteration.

G is to be used only in its hard acceptation, *j* replacing the soft sound. *Gh* occurs, but rarely, in Eastern names.

Let D spell *é* as in *épi* and *épi* as in *éve*. Concurrent or single authoritative spellings by German, Italian, and other Continental writers may generally be followed without hesitation. The French alone of the leading Continental languages forms an exception. Write, therefore, *Selim*, *Ibrahim*, *Aziz*, *Hamil*, *Kasim*, *Katif*, and not *Sleem*, *Ibraheem*, *Azeer*, *Hameed*, etc., as Palgrave (in 'Arabia') does after Lane (in 'Modern Egyptians'), using also his special diacritical marks; *Rashid*, *Ghadir*, *Hubib*, *Ahia*, as in Burton's 'Unexplored Syria' (1872), not *Rasheed*, etc.; *Ali*, *Raghib*, *Rutib*, *Sherif*, as in McCaig's 'Egypt' (1877), not *Ale*, etc.; *Yusuf*, *Masaphat*, *Mured*, *Kurdistan*, *Turkistan*, *Stambul*, *Sikhem*, *Batum*, *Erzerum*, *Urumiah*, *Burunachuk*, not *Yousoof* or *Yousouf*, etc. Such spellings as *Ooroomiah* or *Booroomchook* are fortunately becoming rare.

Two exceptions, however, must here be stated: The French form *ou* is still frequently preferred to *u* (in its Italian and German value) in historically established names, such as *Haroun*, *Mahmoud*, *Aboukir*, *Roum*, *Roumelia*, though even Gibbon writes *Harun* and *Mahmud*; and *oo* is still more generally used in names belonging to parts of Africa the exploration of which is mainly or in great part due to early English travellers, whose spellings have naturally become popular. Such names are *Borloo*, *Borno*, *Timbuctoo*, *Gaboon*, *Darfoor*, *Khartoom*, *Bambook*, *Moorzook*. More recent English explorers write *Ukerewe*, *Lulua*, *Lualaba*, etc.

We conclude our remarks by briefly adding that the German diphthongs do not always correspond to ours—*au*, e.g., answering to *ow*; that *ö* and *ü* may be borrowed from the German and Hungarian for the transliteration of Turkish names, such as *Kadiköö*, *Balüklü*; and that our *a* is to be used indiscriminately (in popular writing) both for the Semitic *aleph* and *ayin*, just as the Authorized version of the Bible used it in *Adoniram* and *Adullam*, *Amaziah* and *Amasa*.

THE FRENCH ELECTIONS.

PARIS, October 17, 1877.

(UR great electoral battle is over, and its results are before the world. But it is in politics as in science: there are facts, and there is the interpretation of the facts. The Republicans have preserved the majority in the new Chamber, and defeated the army of the official candidates; at the same time, they have lost about forty seats. The Government has not succeeded in obtaining a clear majority with its own nominees; at the same time, it has somewhat weakened the majority, which it had dissolved with the help of the Senate. It would be a mere absurdity to say that a country can become more or less republican in the course of a few weeks. The Republicans can still say that the majority of the electors prefer the republican form of government, at least for the time being, to any other form; they can say that not a single Monarchist, not a single Imperialist, voted for their candidates, while some conservative Republicans may have voted for the candidates of Marshal MacMahon, as the Marshal has always solemnly protested his fidelity to the actual Constitution, which is a republican Constitution. It seems, therefore, clear and indubitable that universal suffrage in France in the year 1877 is decidedly republican, and that it intends to preserve the republican institutions. The group of men who called themselves the 363—those who signed the manifesto against the dissolution of the 16th May—have suffered a partial defeat, since some of them have not been re-elected; their cause has obtained a victory, since the new majority is as decidedly republican as the majority of the 363. This is, after all, the great fact which stands pre-eminently before the world; and politics is a science of facts. Of course, this overwhelming republican army of electors, which has sent a new majority to Versailles, is not homogeneous: it has a Centre, a Left, a Right; it shelters under its flag the remnants of the Commune as well as the most wealthy and respectable citizens. These millions of electors agree only on a single point—on the question of the Republic. Till this majority of electors has changed its mind on this question, it will not be possible, legally, to alter the form of government; and the revision of the Constitution, if it takes place, can only bear on details—it cannot go as far as a total revision and the substitution of a monarchy for the Republic.

The most eminent members of the Cabinet of May 16 have repeatedly said to France, either by their own mouths or by the mouth of the President, that the question at issue in the elections was not the form of government; that the country was merely asked to choose between a conservative republic and a destructive or radical republic. I am afraid that, notwithstanding these declarations, the country has taken a different view of the contest. The people understand at once the difference

between a president and an emperor or a king: it is not so easy to make them understand the difference between a Conservative and a Radical. The majority dismissed on May 16 was accused of radicalism, and it certainly contained many men who have the revolutionary *virus* in their veins—men whom no political change can satisfy, and who would always ask for more changes; but this revolutionary temper had had no signal occasion to show itself: the army was untouched, as well as the Church, and the administration of finance; the great fabric of the French state seemed as solid as ever. The country was not alarmed; it was told that it ought to be alarmed, but it would not see the danger. Who, indeed, could see the danger? The workingmen are all, of course, on the radical side; they are themselves the danger. The peasants lead their quiet and laborious lives far away from the political battle-field; they only think of polities when their sons go to the war and when they are summoned by the tax-gatherer. They have no enthusiasm for any form of government; they fear authority; they have a natural regard for all men in power. Their political impressions are sensations rather than impressions. The late war and invasion has been one of these sensations which a generation cannot forget. Our peasants know that the Empire for which they were so often asked to vote ended miserably, that the increased taxation is the heritage of the Empire, that the loss of two provinces was the price which France had to pay for the reign of Napoleon III. The name of "official candidate," which was a force under the Empire, has become a weakness; the peasant is by nature very distrustful; he knows that he has been misled in past times by all the official candidates who promised him peace and plenty. He did not give his confidence to the new official candidates of the Government.

It was the mistake of M. de Fourtou to think that the means so successfully employed in the Imperial times would have the same effect now. The general elections in 1870 gave admirable results just because the peasants were allowed perfect freedom, owing to the distressed condition of the country. There was, so to speak, no administration at the time; the consequence was that the provinces chose the best men everywhere, and it will be a long time before France has as patriotic and as enlightened an Assembly as the National Assembly which followed the war. The Imperial system of elections was founded on corruption and intimidation; it was supported by the prestige of Napoleon; the candidates were called the *candidats de l'Empereur*. We must remember that the Emperor had no Septennate which limited his reign, no term of office; the prefects were pro-consuls, who could hope to be under Napoleon IV, what they were under Napoleon III; the means of corruption were endless; the means of intimidation were frightful. "Nous avons changé tout cela"; the Administration is no longer and cannot be what it was then. The circulars of M. de Fourtou, the administrative pressure, have produced, in my opinion, no effect whatever; the gains of the Government are, I believe, simply and entirely owing to the direct and personal intervention of the Marshal in the struggle. The Marshal, if he has not the prestige which Napoleon III. had in the middle of his reign, has nevertheless a great position in the country; he is known to be an honest man; he has spent his life in the service of the country; he is respected, and political errors would be easily forgiven to a man who is not a politician. There has been undoubtedly among a large number of electors a desire to give satisfaction to the wishes and even to the feelings of the Marshal, and this desire would have borne more results if it had not been for the conduct of the Bonapartist party. While the Monarchists abstained from any agitation, and offered their votes to the Marshal and to the conservative Republic, the Bonapartists never concealed their intention, if the Marshal had the victory, to ask at the expiration of his powers in 1880 for a total revision of the Constitution, and for the restoration of the Empire. As M. Thiers had once spoken of the Republic without Republicans, they intended to change the MacMahonian period into an Empire without an Emperor, and meant to make of it the preface to the real Empire. They became as audacious as they had been humble after the 4th of September. Not only did the men who had quietly and honestly served the state during the long Imperial period come forward, they were led by the very men who had had a hand in the *coup d'état* of 1851 and in the war of 1870. M. Rouher took again the position of a vice-emperor; but the country has not forgotten the speech he made at Saint Cloud when the war against Germany had been declared, and how he complimented the Emperor in the name of the Senate for having been four years in preparing this war. M. de Maupas, who had played a part in the *coup d'état*; M. Haussmann, who had been the favorite prefect of Napoleon; the two Cassagnes, and many others, became "official" candidates under a Republic. The Bonapartists spoke to the Marshal as if they were only working for the Con-

servative interests and for the defence of order ; they spoke more freely to the country. The memories of the Empire may become extinct in the course of time ; the legend may only preserve the brightest parts of the reign of Napoleon III. ; but history has not yet become legendary. I doubt if the present generation will forget the dark sides of a reign which ended so disastrously, or if the present generation will consider as Conservatives the men who could not preserve in its integrity the territory of France.

The impatience of the Bonapartists was detrimental to the Cabinet : the sincerity of the ministers, when they gave themselves out as the defenders of the Constitution, became for many a subject of doubt. The political integrity of the Marshal was not put in question, but many came to ask themselves whether clever politicians did not intend to conduct him through a labyrinth, at the end of which they would place him between the most dangerous resolutions. The reaction against the Empire which followed the war was in exact proportion to the pressure which the Empire had exercised upon the country ; the country is not so much attached to the Republic as it is afraid of a new Empire—it dreads the Empire even more than the Radicals. A Radical explosion appears like a short malady ; a new Imperial régime like a lingering malady which nothing can cure. Such are the feelings, at least, of a majority of the electors ; the dominant sentiment of our population is, on the whole, always the same. Strange as it may appear, the country abhors the idea of any great change, of what is called a revolution. The nation is imbued with revolutionary ideas in a philosophical sense, but it nevertheless dreads revolutions—that is, sudden and visible changes in the form of government. The Republic exists, let it live ; let it die its natural death if it must die. You will hear this idea expressed in a thousand forms by the country people, by the shopkeepers—that is, by those who do not make politics their trade.

The country was satisfied that the Marshal would not leave the Presidency, that he would not resign ; the Marshal assured the country several times that he would remain, whatever happened, at his post. This assurance worked, perhaps, otherwise than the Marshal himself desired ; the electors said to themselves, If we shall keep the Marshal, why should he not stay with any Chamber ? They felt, therefore, at liberty to follow their proclivities. They warned him that they did not desire the return of the Empire, that they would rather live with the *periculosa libertas* of a republic than in the dead calm of a new Napoleonic era. The Bonapartists may have gained some seats in the new Chamber, their cause has received a heavy blow : they have lost those millions of suffrages which were once the pride and the force of the Empire ; they are nothing but a factious minority in the country. They have not even the consolation of being able to throw their defeat on the shoulders of the young Prince Imperial, as the Monarchists can explain *their* defeat by the folly of the Comte de Chambord. The Prince Imperial has not thrown away his chances, he has not offended France ; he is young, he is innocent of all the faults of the past. But France, in its present mood, will not hear of the Empire, and she would rather confide in anybody than in the Rouhers and the Cassagnacs.

Correspondence.

CAUSES OF THE OHIO DEFEAT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION :

SIR : I fear that you are in error when you interpret the Ohio defeat as a rebuke to Secretary Sherman for his reticence upon the silver question. The hold which this madness has obtained upon public opinion in this State is very strong. Scores of men who, two years ago, did earnest work for a sound currency are now carried away by this delusion, and it has a large following even among bankers and professional men. That it is so is a surprising and discreditable fact, but it seems to me one which should be faced at once.

Again, you are in error when you say, "Mr. Stanley Matthews followed him (Judge West) with demagogic, if possible, of a still more degrading and mischievous character." Senator Matthews preceded Judge West, and was, if anything, less intemperate in his tone. Indeed, the rather lame defence which West's friends make for him is that, owing to his defective eyesight, he was unable to see the appearance of the mob of strikers and roughs who interrupted Mr. Matthews, and supposed the comments made to indicate the opinion of a respectable class of citizens.

Respectfully,

A.

CLEVELAND, OHIO, 22d October, 1877.

[We did not "interpret the Ohio defeat as a rebuke to Secretary Sherman for his reticence on the silver question," but as an illustration of the uselessness of his reticence. The voters, in other words, according to us, did not mean to punish him for saying nothing about silver, but they showed him that his saying nothing about it did him no good, and that his speaking about it would have done him no harm, and might have helped to steady or enlighten public opinion. To recur to the "bull" illustration of our article, he met the bull and, seeing him, climbed over the fence and hid in the bushes. The bull jumped the fence, followed, found and gored him, not for running away, but to show him that running away was useless and bushes were no shelter. He intended to gore him in any case. We did not use the word "followed" in a chronological sense, but to ridicule insubordination. Judge West was the head of the ticket and the leading man in the canvass, though "man," under the circumstances, is a very mild word.—ED. NATION.]

Notes.

THE Harvard College Observatory is desirous of extending to the other cities of New England the standard time service which it performs for Boston. It will do so for the bare cost of the extra service : and in order to awaken interest in this matter it has issued a pamphlet on "Standard Public Time," showing first the extent to which the public time is already controlled by various observatories in this country and in England ; next, the inaccuracy of the common method employed by jewellers to ascertain the standard time ; and finally the magnetic contrivances for transmitting the true time from the observatory.—Professor J. W. Mallet, of the University of Virginia, makes a valuable suggestion in *Nature* apropos of the recent librarians' convention in London. He proposes that the authorities of the British Museum and other prominent libraries should designate certain educated and trustworthy persons, not among their paid officers, whom they will admit to make researches among their books on behalf of persons at a distance ; the names and addresses of such searchers, and rate of compensation, to be advertised. A very useful profession would thus be created. Might not the experiment be made in this country also ? The same person might receive a commission from several libraries.—We are informed that the second part of the late Professor Hermann Grassmann's metrical translation of the Rig-Veda has been published by Brockhaus, and that copies have been received in this city by B. Westermann & Co. The whole work makes, beyond all question, the most trustworthy and enjoyable version of the ancient scripture in existence. As a joke too good to be lost, we may mention here a curious illustration of the kind and degree of European culture won by educated Hindus nowadays. One of the most celebrated of them, Rajendralala Mitra, in a recent preface of his, while extolling the Vedic hymns, claims that they were already in existence at the time "when Moses was compiling the laws of the Twelve Tables"!—Mr. A. M. Sullivan, M.P.'s, "New Ireland" will be published in this country by J. B. Lippincott & Co.—"Lapsed, but not Lost," by Mrs. Charles, author of the "Schoenberg-Cotta Family," is published by Dodd, Mead & Co.—John Wiley & Sons will continue their reprint of Ruskin's works with "St. Mark's Rest," a history of Venice ; "The Laws of Fesole," or the elementary principles of drawing and painting as determined by the Tuscan masters—a school-book ; and Parts 3 and 4 respectively of "Proserpina" and "Denealion."—A valuable Digest of American Sanitary Law, by Mr. H. G. Pickering of Boston, has just appeared. It reveals in two States (Arkansas and Missouri) a total lack of sanitary legislation, and in many a very ill-ordered and primitive collection of statutes. Mr. Hendricks's proud State concerns itself only with diseased sheep and cattle. Nebraska imposes a penalty for selling skimmed milk. The first acts generally pertained to quarantine, in Rhode Island dating back to 1743. Massachusetts denounced adulterations of food and instituted local boards of health as early as 1784. State boards of health now exist in fifteen States, besides the District of Columbia. Mr. Pickering has for good reasons been most minute in the case of New York.—Professor O. C. Marsh's Nashville address last August, on the "Introduction and Succession of Vertebrate Life in America," which has been appearing in *Nature*, is now privately printed in handsome pamphlet form. It forms one of the landmarks in the progress of scientific opinion concerning the descent and development of animate beings.

—In the forthcoming number (November-December) of the *International Review*, Mr. Horace White will discuss in a thorough manner the present phases of the currency question as bearing on resumption. Simultaneously, the next number of the *North American Review* will contain the views of Secretary Sherman, Ex-Secretary McCulloch, and others, on the same subject of resumption. This number of the *North American*, it is announced, is the last that will be printed in Boston or be published by Osgood & Co. The January number will bear the imprint of D. Appleton & Co., and if we are not misinformed a monthly instead of a bi-monthly issue is contemplated. The *Review* was established in 1815, and has hitherto been considered as much a part of Boston as Harvard College or the Old South Church. No doubt it will be to the advantage of the *Review* to bring the editor and proprietor and the publisher together again. From Princeton, N.J., we have the prospectus of a new *Missionary Review* to be launched in January, and to resemble in size of page and style the *Presbyterian Quarterly* and *Princeton Review*. It will aim "to present a clear view of the whole Foreign work of the different churches, boards, and societies, and to criticise in a friendly spirit the measures and machinery of all." Rev. R. G. Wilder, Princeton, will be its editor. We have received also the first number of the *Metallurgical Review*, a monthly publication (New York : David Williams). If the future issues are equal to this one it will prove a valuable addition to our mechanical literature. Its field is intended to embrace all matters of interest, whether historical, scientific, or practical, in the metallurgy of the useful metals. The first article, from the pen of Prof. R. H. Thurston, is upon the "Mechanical Treatment of Metals," and apparently forms but the introduction to a series of articles upon a subject on which Prof. Thurston is now recognized as a leading authority. Mr. Pechin's account of the new Ohio iron district, Mr. Williams's article on the Danks puddling furnace, and Mr. Metcalf's article on steel are valuable and interesting; while Prof. Wurtz furnishes a more abstruse paper on the chemical element of iron.

—Those who take an interest in modern French plays will be glad to find in *Scribner's* for November, in the department styled Home and Society, a very full and excellent list of them, contributed by Mr. J. B. Matthews, under the title of "French Plays for American Amateurs." Mr. Matthews recommends them especially to young French students who desire to acquire "the talk of the Frenchman of to-day," and as to their morality he vouches for his list as not containing a single play "to the reading of which by her daughter the most fastidious mother could object." The most suggestive article in the present number is that by Mr. John G. Stevens on the Erie Canal, considered in its relations to the city of New York. Mr. Stevens's main point is that, so far as New York's supremacy over other cities on the Atlantic seaboard depends upon the Erie Canal, from whose opening, in 1825, it securely dates, it has now come to an end. He argues that the railroads have at last become able to compete with the Canal in cost of transportation, and have virtually destroyed its usefulness. In 1853 the tonnage on the Canal was fourfold greater than on the New York Central and Erie roads combined; in 1876 it was only about one-third. A few years ago it monopolized the transportation of grain; last year it carried only 15 per cent. Moreover, in 1862 the number of canal-boats was 6,000, and, as a boat lasts only 12 years, 500 boats per year must be built in order to maintain the working capacity of the Canal; but for the past two years only 88 boats per year have been built, and at present building has ceased, because it no longer pays to build them, or even to keep them in repair. Before our politicians have ceased fighting over canal boards and canal tolls, therefore—indeed, in five years from this date—it is probable that we may be able "to sketch the ruins of aqueducts from the summits of disused locks." Mr. Stevens does not pretend to discuss, or even to guess, the effect which this disuse of the canal, which he regards as inevitable, will have upon the future of New York. But he asserts, and every one must agree with him, that the rivalry between New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore (which exported last year 20 per cent. more corn than New York), and other cities will hereafter be sharp and intensely aggressive; that no city can afford to be handicapped by an ounce of dead-weight; and that New York must reform many things if she expects to retain her commercial superiority.

—In *Lippincott's* for November we still find nothing more readable than Mr. James's "London at Midsummer." Greenwich, Blackheath, and Woolwich are the particular localities described in this paper, which begins, like others of the series, with pointing out the exclusive character of some English "comforts," and ends with an irrepressible tribute to the

greatness of England. In *Harper's*, Mrs. Jessie Fremont makes her debut in a paper entitled "A Year of American Travel," which appears to be the first of a series, and a series of indefinite length, seeing that the writer "divague fort," as she gives due warning she means to do. She is, if anything, a little too discursive for perfect ease in reading her. Nothing in her travels (by way of the Isthmus to California) is so interesting as the glimpses she gives of her home life, of the migratory habits of her father's family, of Senator Benton's domestic character, of his solicitude for his daughter's culture: all this is not only a very pretty picture, but it suggests a relation between parents and children almost ideal from its rarity. Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford's "San Antonio de Bexar" and Mr. H. W. Elliott's "Ten Years' Acquaintance with Alaska" are interesting in themselves and as showing what a catholic range of climate and nationalities the United States now embraces. The colder extreme we perhaps owe to Mr. Sumner as much as to any one after Mr. Seward, but it is sad to read that his "great speech in favor of the treaty, and which, in the universal ignorance of the subject prevailing in the American mind at the time it was delivered, was hailed as a masterly and truthful presentation of the case, is, in fact, as rich a burlesque upon the country as was Proctor Knott's 'Duluth.' Sumner, however, doubtless meant well, but he was easily deceived by the cunning advocates of the purchase." Consequently, neither he nor any other eulogist of the "New England of the Pacific" mentioned the Pribilof seal islands, "which now constitute the only real source of wealth and income to the Government in all Alaska," and bring into the treasury sixfold the cost of maintaining the revenue service and civil order in the Territory. Olive Logan writes of Robert Houdin, "The King of Conjurers." Had she been familiar with his autobiography, and not relied exclusively on his posthumous 'Magie et Physique,' she would, with a little technical knowledge thrown in, have saved herself numerous blunders, as in the attribution of Pepper's ghost to Houdin. Some mention of the book so largely drawn upon, for illustrations as well as for text, would seem to have been proper.

—An American in Naples writes us as follows under date of October 14:

"I should like to have been at Mr. Wells's elbow when he 'locked horns' with 'Merchant' in your No. 639, to give him a hint about our *barter* with Italy. It is an indisputable fact that Italy offers one of the best markets for our productions if only we would take hers in exchange. For instance, coal is one of the most important imports, and comes from England and France—nine-tenths from the former. The qualities imported for the Italian navy cannot (for reasons which I need not give here) compare with American coal for this special purpose, and American coal can be sold at much lower rates than are paid for this English, or rather Welsh, coal. In spite of a great disadvantage in cost of transportation, we could drive English coal out of the Italian market if we would only consent to receive Italian manufactured goods in exchange, for there is no use attempting to sell coal for 'exchange on London.' The profit on coal is relatively the same as that on cotton goods, but perhaps the margin is smaller, and in order to compete successfully with the British dealers we must be able to sell at small profit and make something on the exchange, be it a bill on London or a bale of silk or velvet. The same thing holds good with our grain. American grain would now be pouring direct into Italian ports but for the impossibility of making any profitable 'barter.' Cotton goods manufactured in America are gradually coming into the market, but the trade does not increase, for the reason already given. In short, the fruit and a few other articles which we take from Italy are sufficient to balance the trade we have in tobacco and petroleum. Italian silks and velvets are now largely sent through France to America. If the Pennsylvania coal kings could only see that an abolition of the high duties on Italian manufactured articles would open an important market to them, some good might possibly result."

—A correspondent writes us from Conway, Mass., October 27:

"Under the civil-service rules our postmaster resigned his positions as member of the district committee and chairman of the town committee; and when a caucus was held last Wednesday to elect delegates to the Representative Convention he remained in his office attending to his duties as postmaster. Behold the lamentable consequence! Instead of the usual eight or ten 'wheel-horses,' more than one hundred and fifty voters attended the caucus, and an almost unprecedented attempt was made to stuff the ballot-box. If the general interest in politics continues to die out at this rate, how long will it be before nominations will cease to be made and office-holders need to be called back to their wonted function?"

—At a recent meeting of the Middlesex South District Medical Society in Cambridge, Mass., a communication from the Board of Censors was read by the secretary, to the effect that they had received a letter from a lady requesting examination as a candidate for admission to the Massachusetts Medical Society. She stated that she was a graduate in medicine from the University of Michigan, a member of a county

society of the State of New York, and had recently been appointed resident physician to the State Reformatory Prison for Women at South Framingham. The censors say:

"By a vote of the councillors, passed in 1873, the censors are not allowed to admit a woman to examination for admission to the society."

Believing, however, as we do, that the exclusion of properly educated women from our professional ranks does not tend to advance the progress of medicine, we desire respectfully to suggest to the society that the councillors of the district be instructed to bring this matter again before the parent society, and to use all proper efforts to secure for women applying for admission to the Massachusetts Medical Society the same privileges that men enjoy."

The following resolutions thereupon were passed, with very few dissenting voices, fifty-three members being present:

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this society the time has come when women should have the privilege of examination by any board of censors acting for the Massachusetts Medical Society."

"Resolved, That it is the desire of this society that well-qualified female practitioners shall, after examination, be admitted to the Massachusetts Medical Society."

"Resolved, That the councillors of this society be instructed to communicate these resolves at the next meeting of the councillors of the Massachusetts Medical Society."

It will be interesting to see what action is taken by the Massachusetts Society at its next meeting. There certainly are in that State, as elsewhere, women practising medicine who meet our first physicians in consultation, who occupy positions involving great responsibility, and who would not suffer by comparison with the members of the Massachusetts Medical Society. It is already certain that these women will be employed by a considerable number of our most intelligent citizens; and the question is worth asking whether the State society which excludes them from membership is not injuring itself and itself alone. We remark that the last number of the 'Transactions' of the California State Medical Society, which has reached us from the Pacific coast, contains, among others, articles by ladies who are already members.

—The 'Nouveau dictionnaire de géographie universelle' (Paris : Hachette), the publication of which has just commenced, bids fair to mark a new era in the progress of geographical science in France. Its editor is the venerable M. Vivien de Saint-Martin, a man in every way competent for the task. His first work on geography was published fifty-two years ago, and from that time to this, he tells us in his preface, not a day has passed in which he has not added to the geographical notes which it has been the passion of his life to collect. The actual preparation for this work began sixteen years ago. That so long a time should elapse before the publication of the first pages can surprise no one who is familiar with the enormous mass of material contained in the Geographical Society and Government publications of the various countries, which must be carefully collated. Among his numerous collaborators are M. Louis Rousselet, author of 'L'Inde et ses rajahs,' who will revise the entire manuscript, and M. Élisée Reclus, who will write the principal articles upon America. The work, which will consist of two immense volumes of 1600 pages each, to be completed in eight years, is divided into two parts, ancient and modern. The former will treat of the geography of the Greeks and Romans; Biblical, Byzantine, Sanskrit, Arabian; and that of the western chroniclers down to the fifteenth century. Of the latter the letter A and part of B have been published. The aim of the work is to give the physical, political, economic, and historical geography of every country, together with its ethnology. A most valuable feature is a bibliographical list of sources and works to be consulted appended to each important article. Under Asia, for instance, is given a very full and interesting chronological list of travels from the beginning of the sixteenth century to 1874. Whilst designed to be a complete encyclopædia of geography, it does not pretend to include every place. The nomenclature of Europe alone reaches some six or seven hundred thousand names, which would fill at least three times the space allotted to the whole work. Of the 36,000 communes in France about a third will find a place. Yet to Albany two-thirds of a column are devoted. Only well-verified facts are to be recorded, and in newly-explored countries, together with the latitude, longitude, and altitude of stations, are given both the name of the observer and the character of his observation.

—The 'Atlas universel de géographie ancienne, moderne et du moyen âge' (Hachette), also edited by M. Vivien de Saint-Martin, is an independent work, though published simultaneously with the 'Dictionnaire.' In the preface the editor traces briefly the history of the science of cartography from the days of Ortelius and Mercator to those of Petermann and Kiepert. The Atlas of Ortelius was published in 1570, and

marks the dawning of the new era in this science. It is said that Mercator generously delayed the publication of his own work for several years after this time, in order that his great rival might reap the full benefit of his labors. Of the large maps of Mercator, only one, the great Mappemonde in the Bibliothèque Nationale, is known to exist. Reductio is of them by himself, however, are common, so that we have abundant means of judging of his work. Colbert, by his command to the Académie des Sciences for a geometric description of the kingdom—a work executed in part under the supervision of Cassini de Thury—gave the greatest impulse to the science in the last century, not only in France but in all Europe. M. Vivien de Saint-Martin speaks with the fullest appreciation of the works of the German geographers. Of the most illustrious of these he says, while lamenting the decline of interest in his own country in geographical studies, "we have neither a name nor teaching which can be compared with the teaching or the name of Carl Ritter." There are to be 112 maps in the Atlas; five of these are devoted to the United States (including one, on a large scale, of New England), and thirty-two are historical. Three have already been published—a Carte du ciel, the Arctic regions, and Turkey in Europe. The scale of the latter is nearly 50 English miles to the inch. As compared with the best German maps, it is superior in legibility, whilst they excel in the abundance of details. Accompanying each map is a descriptive text, and with that of Turkey is a bibliographical list of modern works upon that country.

—Emil Bachrens, in his 'Unedirte lateinische Gedichte,' presents us with some hitherto unedited Latin poems of the fourth and fifth centuries, taken from the Codex Harleianus, 3685, the contents of which were given not long ago by E. Dümmler in the *Zeitschrift für deutsches Alterthum* (N. F. IX., p. 84). Between two early mediæval poems are there found four pieces of earlier date. The first piece, "Aegritudo Perdicæ," is interesting as an example of the development of a legend from a foundation possibly historical. Pseudo-Soranus, in his life of Hippocrates, tells how that physician discovered the love of Perdikkas for Phila, just as Erasistratus did that of Antiochos for Stratonike. The later development of this story, in a manner characteristic of the taste of the times, is then followed by the editor down to its treatment in this newly-found poem, which is attributed by him with great probability to the school of African poets, which flourished at Carthage after the middle of the fifth century under the Vandal kings. More noteworthy are the remaining three poems, all apparently by the author whose name is given at the head of the first of them—Tiberianus, the same, it seems, who held high office in Spain, Gaul, and Africa A.D. 326–336. The verses especially commencing "Ammis ibat inter herbas valle fusus frigida" show no inconsiderable originality and individual poetic ability, an extraordinary gift of description in this picture of a landscape executed with a fine treatment of details and an almost modern sentiment for the beauties of nature; all this in a degree and manner which single out the poet from among his contemporaries. All these qualities we find again in another work, seemingly of the same period and written in the same metre, the beautiful and well-known anonymous "Pervigilium Veneris." We must therefore pronounce Bachrens's conjecture highly probable, that the last-named poem is also the work of this Tiberianus.

COUNT CAVOUR.*

READERS of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*, in which the articles comprising this volume have appeared within the last year, will be glad to find them in a collected form. The translation is on the whole good, though somewhat stiff, and in several places literal to the point of inaccuracy—in such phrases, for instance, as "agriculture practised in a certain extension," and "a positive army," meaning a real army. But these defects are on the whole rare, and if an air of inflation pervades the book it is the fault neither of the translator nor the author. M. de Mazade is well known to the French-speaking public of the world as one of the calmest and most lucid of the French political essayists of the present day, but it is almost impossible to turn him into English without revealing a considerable amount of "padding" that passes unnoticed in the original, and indeed gives it an air of sentimental grace.

The story of Cavour's life has been already very fully told, and his political career has undergone ample discussion. M. de Mazade's object in taking them up just now seems to be, and indeed he half avows it in

* 'Le Comte de Cavour.' Par Charles de Mazade. Paris : Plon ; New York : F. W. Cheshire, 1877.

* 'The Life of Count Cavour.' Translated from the French of Charles de Mazade. New York : G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1877.

his preface, to read the French people, in the present crisis in their affairs, a lesson on the power that lies in patience and moderation and compromise, and in the adaptation of means to ends. Certainly for such a purpose Cavour's career is admirably fitted. He may be said to have been the first Continental statesman to use purely Anglo-Saxon methods in attaining his ends, and his example has struck the Continental imagination in a way which that of no English or American politician has ever done or is likely to do. When you talk to a Frenchman or Italian of what Pitt, or Peel, or Lincoln accomplished by persistence, persuasion, and middle courses, and contentment with what was possible at the moment, he instantly replies, or thinks, that it was the character of the people and their political manners which made these great men successful—that if they had not had the English and American public and institutions to work upon, their skill would not have been skill at all. Cavour did an immense work for Continental polities, and may almost be said to have called not simply liberal Italy, but liberal Europe, into existence by dissipating this notion. He went to work on the most unpromising materials—a country broken into small states, long used to absolutism and to foreign interference of the most degrading kind, without public life or great political or military traditions, and cowed by the contemptuous moral domination of all the great Powers. The way in which he took one of these little states and made it the nucleus of the kingdom of Italy was perhaps the most remarkable piece of statecraft ever witnessed, and he had nothing at his back save an ardent popular desire for unity. But this desire was largely moulded and expressed by men who were as impracticable and as unsympathetic towards him as any of the Paris Jacobins. His unhesitating use of Louis Napoleon, then detested by Italian Liberals as the destroyer of the French Republic and the ally of the Pope; his despatch of the Piedmontese Contingent to the Crimea simply to attract notice for the little state and show that Italians could fight, and give them a claim of some kind on English and French sympathy, were detestable steps in the eyes of the logical and high-principled politicians of the French school; but they were touches of genius of which Pitt would have been proud, or which Burke would have panegyrized. Then, again, his bold support of the Garibaldian movement as soon as it showed its power, in order to control it; his eager attempts to arrange a *modus vivendi* with the Pope at the moment when Italian patriots were most exasperated with him, and his careful arrangement with a confessor seven years before his death to give him the viaticum, so as to avoid the injury to his fame and work that might be wrought by the refusal of the clergy at the last moment to absolve him, as in the case of poor Santa-Rosa, were all strokes of a school of politics of which the Continent till his day knew little or nothing, and the marvellous success of which made a profound impression.

It would be safe to say that Cavour not only created Italy but has had no small share in creating Germany, in reforming Austria, and in giving the French Republicans the sagacity which is now surprising both their friends and enemies. During the most trying period of the Italian revolution—the interval between the peace of Villafranca and the annexation of the Duchies and of the two Sicilies—he was repeatedly urged to ask Parliament for the suppression of the constitution and the bestowal on him of temporary dictatorial powers; but he would not hear of it. He scorned government by dictatorship; it was beneath his powers, he thought. "Anybody," he said, "could govern in a 'state of siege.'" His glory and ambition lay in governing by persuasion and skilful management, and under constitutional forms. He delighted in the difficulty of winning over hostile or doubting majorities to his views, and making his policy the policy of the nation. In fact, he was *par excellence* a politician, but a politician of the highest order; and his career would, for this reason, furnish a most useful study to large numbers of persons who pass under that name in this country, and who think themselves "practical" without ever having in their lives either conceived or even felt much interest in any legislative measure, or in anything political, except the keeping of government patronage in the hands of one party. He, on the other hand, not only called Italy into existence, but he contracted difficult and valuable alliances, carried on great wars, organized a large army, a vast system of taxation, a new civil service, and defended and expounded everything he planned or executed before a parliament which was often hostile or suspicious.

One of the inevitable effects of his success was to throw Mazzini, and most of the Italian patriots who had worked with him and by his weapons, into the shade. In fact, it is hardly an exaggeration to say that he clouded the memory of the whole body of "precursors" of Italian liberty, as they have been called. None of their doings or sayings directly led up to

him. He was not in the least the sort of man whom their labors and sacrifices foreshadowed or helped to produce. He hated conspirators and dreamers, and distrusted sentimentalists of all shades, and had little poetry in his composition. He had hardly a tincture of literature even, but was strong in political economy and mathematics, and found his happiness in action, and had all Burke's contempt for logical politicians. That such a man should have become a type of statesmanship at the very dawn of Italian independence, the model which Italian public men will consciously or unconsciously imitate, and the standard by which voiers will judge them, must be considered one of the greatest of the many pieces of good fortune which have attended the foundation of the new kingdom. M. de Mazade evidently desires to hold him up for imitation in France also, and the success of the Republique will depend on her ability to produce one or two examples of the immense good sense which Cavour placed at the service of Italy. Gambetta—also an Italian by descent—seems now and then to have flashes of Cavour's genius, but they are only flashes; and his patience, though more conspicuous now than in the earlier part of his career, still lacks the air of inexhaustibility which made Cavour such a formidable antagonist.

FURNESS'S VARIORUM HAMLET.*

THE "New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare" now includes "Hamlet."

The readers of the *Nation* have been made acquainted with the plan of the work and its general merits in notices of the earlier volumes, which, they will remember, are devoted to "Romeo and Juliet" and to "Macbeth." "Hamlet" is in bulk double either of these, and is doubtless the outcome of tenfold the labor. A variorum edition of it, harvesting and gleaning, as Mr. Furness does, the literature not only of England, but of Germany and France, and storing all away in two volumes of this size, might be the work of a lifetime. Mr. Furness did well to address himself to it at once, as soon as he had fixed his method and fairly settled down to his work.

The difficulties begin with the text. The editor has to determine the relations of three different versions to each other, and to the old lost play which was on the boards in Shakspere's youth. No one of the three is the complete text as it finally left the hands of Shakspere. Are they all variations of the same text, or do they represent texts composed at different times? Can any one be accepted as a standard, and the readings of the others noted as variations? Mr. Furness inclines to the view that Shakspere made two revisions of the old play. He began by working over the first part of it mainly. This proved a great success, and was pirated and printed in the first quarto. Then he revised it and finished it up. The other quartos and the folio are acting copies somewhat differently abridged from this same final revision. At any rate, Mr. Furness has found it necessary to construct a text for himself by collation and comparison of the others. He has done it with admirable judgment and care, and given a good, conservative text in modern spelling and printing. Perhaps he makes a little too free with the punctuation-marks; modern punctuation may be freely used to bring out more clearly a meaning with which the old punctuation agrees, though even then it is not best to make much effort to bring out nice distinctions or decide mooted questions of shades of meaning left undecided in the original. But when the meaning is changed it is a different matter; careless and blundering as the pointing of the old editions is, a change of it often constitutes a less probable emendation than the change of a word. In Act v., sc. ii., 210, the quarto reads :

"The readiness is all, since no man of what he leaves, knowes what ist to leane betimes, let be."

This Mr. Furness gives :

"The readiness is all. Since no man, of aught he leaves, knows, what ist to leave betimes? Let be."

It is much simpler to take *ist* for *it's* or *'tis*, and leave the passage in its plain meaning according to the old pointing : "Readiness (for death) is all our part, since no man knows in respect to aught he leaves, what is the best time to leave it."

Along with the preparation of the text there is the gathering and arranging of the various readings suggested by editors, and critics, and everybody—a vast labor even with the aid of the Cambridge collections. Then come notes grammatical and explanatory. These are presented with admirable brevity and clearness, and are occasionally enlivened and enlightened by pithy remarks of the editor, all too few. The effort at

* "A New Variorum Edition of Shakespeare. Edited by Horace Howard Furness, Honorary Member of the "Deutsche Shakspär-gesellschaft of Weimar." Vol. III., IV. Hamlet." Philadelphia : J. B. Lippincott & Co. 1877.

compression, which is made evident in many ways, keeps a critic on the watch for matter which might be omitted. There are some grammatical notes which are, perhaps, of this kind. It is hard to draw the line between general grammar and usages so Shaksperian that they ought to have a place in such a commentary. Obsolete constructions and forms need explanation even when common in Shakspere's time; but the study of the old forms of the language is becoming so general that it is no longer necessary to enlarge on such forms by giving their history and use in other authors. This remark was suggested by the note on *its*, Act i., sc. ii., 216, a good grammatical discussion, which tells about the Anglo-Saxon declension of *he*, and the uses of the Bible, Bacon and Milton, as well as some other matters, all which are interesting, and ten years ago might, perhaps, have claimed a place in such a Variorum, but which are now among the commonplaces of English grammar in all our good schools. This note is, however, exceptional; the general habit of Mr. Furness is just right. The fact is stated as briefly as possible, and a reference made to Abbott, or Maetzner, or some other historical grammar. If in one or two cases (Act i., sc. ii., 151 and 221) a reference to a grammar is given without explanation, they are rare exceptions. The references of this kind to former volumes of the series are, however, numerous.

The explanatory and critical remarks also go to an extreme of compression. It gives a comic cast sometimes to the aesthetic criticism to use abbreviations for the names of the characters, making Mr. Lowell, for example, say Ham. and Oph. It is a more substantial shortcoming that Mr. Furness has not given more notes to explain and apply his own views. Thus, he tells us in his general remarks that "*Hamlet* is neither mad nor pretends to be so," without expanding or explaining. The student will almost certainly turn to passages where *Hamlet* himself seems to contradict that view, as, for example, Act v., sc. ii., 215:

"What I have done,
That might your nature, honor, and exception
Roughly awake, I here proclaim was madness.
Was't Hamlet wrong'd Laertes? Never Hamlet;
. . . Who does it, then? His madness."

Here we find nothing in the commentary to indicate what modification of the apparent meaning of the text or of his theory Mr. Furness would have us make.

The text and notes which have now been referred to make a volume of 473 pages, including an index of 15 pages. It is pleasant to find that, so far as verbal criticism is concerned, there are almost no difficulties in "*Hamlet*" left without a fair solution. There is hardly a passage of which the general sense is doubtful, very few which eluded the wit of all the early English commentators. Thus, the famous nonsense passage in Act i., sc. iv., 35, which Mr. Furness leaves untouched in his text:

"The dram of eale
Doth all the noble substance of a doubt
To his own scandal."

is obviously the enforcement of what *Hamlet* has just said, that the noblest character may "take corruption" from a single defect; and its general meaning must be conveyed by the early correction:

"The dram of base
Both all the noble substance oft corrupt
To his own scandal."

But this is not good enough for the commentators. They are haunted by the cases in which some exquisite Shaksperian expression has been found lurking in the printer's nonsense, like that of *Falstaff's* death, "for his nose was as sharp as a pen and a babbled of green fields," which was disguised under "*a table of green fields*," or "*on a table of green frieze*," as Mr. Collier's Commentator read it. So the new conjectures grow more numerous from generation to generation. There are six great pages on the passage just quoted from "*Hamlet*"; *eale* may be for *evil*, or *rile*, or *ill*, or many other things as well as *base*, and of *a doubt* may have been *oft debase*, or *infect*, or *adopt*, or *adapt*, or *dout* (do out), or a hundred other things. One of the later commentators does let a gleam of Shakspere upon the passage by reading "*oft subdue* to his own scandal," reminding one of the famous lines in Sonnet exi. :

"And almost thence my nature is subdued
To that it works in, like the dyer's hand."

Here, by the way, Mr. Furness's reference is to Sonnet iii., where the word is not found.

The second volume, under the name of an appendix, presents the student with a collection of documents and critical discussions too extended to be placed in immediate connection with the text. The most important are an essay on the date and text; reprints of the first quarto

and of the prose "*Hystorie of Hamlet*"; a translation of an old German play, "*Der bestrafte Brudermord*" (Fratricide Punished, or Prince Hamlet of Denmark), with an interesting note upon the acting of English plays in Germany at the beginning of the seventeenth century by companies of travelling English actors, "a curious and almost inexplicable fact," which the Germans have lately studied up. Then there are selections from British and American essays of criticism, and translations from German and French—about 50 Germans are represented—and last, not least, a bibliography of "*Hamlet*" literature. Most students would have been glad to see this volume larger, but all will recognize the excellent judgment with which the selections have been made and the fidelity and art of the translations. Beyond all question, the work furnishes important facilities for the study of this great poem. Mr. Furness says that he does not flatter himself that this is an *enjoyable* edition of Shakspere: he regards it rather as a necessary evil. It is doubtless true that most of the textual criticism is only preliminary to the real study of the poem, that explaining the obsolete expressions has little or nothing to do with the mastery of Shakspere's poetic art. But there are few fields of thought more interesting or more fruitful than the aesthetic criticism of "*Hamlet*." This youngest of Shakspere's tragedies has been hardly less by its defects than by its wit the source of wit in others. The essays of Goethe, Coleridge, Lowell, and the rest form a body of literature comparable to "*Hamlet*" itself. Nor are the six pages on the *dram of eale* without their interest to the student of human nature. In these days, when two swarms of insects cannot fight without bringing upon them the microscope and the pen of the reporter, the battles of the commentators are worth their record. Are they not vertebrate animals?

RECENT NOVELS.*

SUDDENLY a large number of minor novelists have begun to seek their material in the domestic relations. Mr. Habberton led off with '*Helen's Babies*,' and he has had many imitators who have spun more or less amusing tales of more or less ill-conditioned children, whose main claim to the position of heroes of fiction has been unlimited and uncorrected impudence. The author of '*Four Irrepressibles*' falls into line with an account of the three sons and the daughter of Mr. Benjamin H. Cutler, of Boston, Massachusetts, who made a visit to a cousin in the country. These children are rather better behaved than those described by the author of '*Helen's Babies*', and it is an agreeable change to find that they were at times under the charge of a nurse. They are, in fact, a tolerably attractive and unobjectionable set of young people, whose adventures, it may be said, were surer to be of interest to their parents and guardians than to the general public. Still, even the cynical may smile at the little boy who complained that he was unable to unbutton a peapod. But besides the records of infantile scepticism and childish prattle, there is appearing a series of sarcastic attacks on other members of the family circle. A wife has undertaken to amuse or amend the world by writing a book called '*That Husband of Mine*.' She would have been more merciful if she had spared the public this display of her husband's foolishness and her own simplicity. They give a party, but the husband has a bad toothache and stays in his room. In his agony he jumps on a bedstead and brings it with a crash to the floor, spoiling his new dressing-gown, in which he was about to come down-stairs, being unable to find his coat. Presently the "songs, glees, and recitations" with which the guests were diverting themselves were interrupted by the sudden appearance of the master of the house out of his head with "laughing-gas." The humor is all of this delicate sort.

What is really amusing about these books is the way a conventional love-story, in an abridged form, is pinned on the most uncongenial subject. No one would ever imagine that in an account of childish sports he would come across a courtship and a promised wedding, but, possibly out of respect for the demands of publishers, almost every one of these books contains something of the sort. In '*Four Irrepressibles*' the good aunt is rewarded by the return of her former lover, Mr. Caswell, who incidentally saves the lives of two of the three boys. In '*Helen's Babies*' there was a full-grown romance, and in '*That Husband of Mine*' the sister who writes to the wife of the hero, "If you have any gentlemen friends—but what nonsense! consider it unwritten," of course becomes engaged to "my husband's dearest friend," whose "features were clear cut, and, as Charlie used to say, blooded, or ancestrally handsome."

* *Four Irrepressibles*; or, *The Tribe of Benjamin*. Their Summer with Aunt Agnes; What they did, and what they undid. Boston: Loring, 1877.

That Husband of Mine. Boston: Lee & Shepard; New York: Charles T. Lillingham, 1877.

Even in another somewhat similar story, 'His Grandmothers,' which surely has not a title suggestive of amorous frenzy, we find the grandson's wife's friend becoming engaged to the husband's partner. While this concession is made to the tastes of the inveterate reader of novels, there is also a good deal that is really entertaining in the poor wife's story of the two grandmothers-in-law who planted themselves in her home. One was an amiable, silly creature, while the other was a domestic tyrant of the most virulent kind. She bullied her granddaughter and petted her easily-beguiled grandson; she bought a pig and cow, and then put the family, excepting the grandson, on short allowance of skimmed milk, making insufficient butter from the cream, while she sold two quarts of good milk to a neighbor for her own emolument. In a word, she exhausted nearly all the methods of refined cruelty that have such frequent and crushing effect in the enforced intimacy of family life. The story ends with the curtness of one of Mother Goose's melodies; but there is a good deal of humor in this amusing sketch which could find better employment in a more real story. The writer has the unfortunate gift of clear-sightedness, and at times she shows considerable cleverness, as in her description of her own character.

In 'My Three Conversations with Miss Chester,' Mr. F. B. Perkins describes a peculiar, but successful, method of courtship, which can be strongly recommended to the attention of diffident or taciturn young men. The title of the book, it should be said in the first place, is misleading, for conversation was but the least of the means employed to win the accomplished Miss Irene Chester. The supposed narrator of the story tells us that at the time of these conversations he "was twenty-five—between you and me, fair reader, I am not so very much older now—tall, well-formed, strong and active, both mentally and physically, and an extensive and omnivorous reader and student." It is not easy to see why he does not also call public attention to his conspicuous modesty; but he had one finer and even rarer quality, namely, "a considerable endowment of that magnetic power used in throwing 'sensitives,' as they are technically called, into the mesmeric state." This gifted young man went to a party in "a Fifth Avenue palace" in this city; he "was not dressed in fine raiment, wore no gloves," and in consequence he took a seat in a corner, from which he began studying the lives of the company "from their faces, and working the detail of expressions and postures into connection with the pre-existent mass of mental philosophy whose acquisition and arrangement had been my study for years." It could not have been the philosophy he had amassed, it must have been the absence of gloves, that caused him to look with such contempt as he expresses in the story at the scene about him, until his attention was attracted to one young woman who was talking to a number of men. He "gazed and gazed" until he "entered a state resembling that which Asiatic ascetics believe they can attain by unending reiterations of the sacred name." He stared in this way until, as he says, "I was aroused from entire forgetfulness of time and place by some sudden and uncomfortable sensation, which made me for an instant suspect that I had been struck." This was a natural but unfortunately erroneous supposition, so that when the young woman walked away what must he do but follow her and begin to gaze at her again? This stare lasted until he received another shock, when he persuaded some one to introduce him to her, and the first of the conversations began. These were comparatively unimportant; Miss Chester, who was so brilliant a talker and so cutting in her retorts that she was nicknamed "The Two-edged Sword"—a two-edged compliment, by the way—could not hold her own against this self-confident young philosopher, who amused himself at parties by sitting in front of a lady he did not know and glaring at her; and almost all she had to say was that she felt the power of his eye, the strength of his will, etc. The second conversation consisted mainly of a game of chess, and the third of his reading aloud to her a translation from a German book of mystical philosophy, she replying with some music, in which he (being satisfied that she "physically, . . . intellectually, . . . and morally" suited him) read the story of her great love for him; and although "wont to be fastidious, even to the implication of affection," kindly acknowledged to himself that she was worthy of him, and agreed to marry her. What may be the meaning of this remarkably disagreeable little book it is not easy to decipher, unless it be a glorification of the habit of staring. Youths who are too diffident to speak, although it must be confessed that this was not our hero's trouble, would do well, however, to make sure that it is a "sensitive" whom they try to fascinate in this way.

'His Grandmothers.' A Summer Salad. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1877.

'My Three Conversations with Miss Chester.' By Frederic Beecher Perkins. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1877.

Daudet's 'Sidonie,' having met with considerable success in this country, the publishers have taken advantage of the popularity of this new author to bring out a translation of another of his stories, 'Jack,' which appeared in the original French something less than a year ago. The translator's work has been well done. There is a noteworthy absence of the grating passages which generally betray translation, and it is probably only a slip of the pen that speaks, page 234, of several millions of francs accruing from a sale of furniture. We speak without book, however. As to the novel itself it has elements of popularity, though it can hardly be affirmed that it has merits of the highest order. The story is an exceedingly pathetic one—pathetic, that is to say, in the way of wringing the feelings and rending the heart; but it is a mere record of suffering. The hero, whose name is that of the book, is an illegitimate child of a light woman of Paris. This mother of his is a pretty, empty-headed chatterbox, who places Jack in a sort of French Dotheboys Hall, kept by a vicious creature, Moronval, who has a crowd of penniless Bohemians to aid him in the instruction of the motley crowd of foreign lads attending the school. The mother falls in love with and marries one of these teachers, D'Argenton, an ambitious, cold, arrogant, cruel man, who yearns to be a poet. It is whispered that this character is a caricature of a certain prominent Parisian man of letters, who certainly, if he has heard the rumor, must have a very low opinion of Daudet's powers. A less attractive person than D'Argenton it would be hard to find. The author is never tired of exhibiting his many faults, his arid faculty of composition, his insufferable conceit, his brutality to his step-son, his heartlessness to his wife, and his self-satisfaction. Jack's career under the guide of his step-father is a succession of miseries. D'Argenton makes him a laboring-man, a stoker on a steamer. While there his health is ruined, and when he returns to land, and fate seems to smile upon him a little, one disappointment falls upon him after another, and finally, when every possible misfortune has come upon him, the reader is relieved by being told of his death.

No one, of course, not made of stone, can read this chronicle of suffering without keen sympathy with its victim and anger at his persecutors, and a novel that really succeeds in making the reader forget himself and feel for another's woes must have power. But is there not something coarse in Daudet's method of work? He pursues his bad and unhappy characters as relentlessly as if he were a frontiersman chasing a horse-thief. The bad people might with equal art be named like the two-legged qualities which compose the *dramatis personae* of the 'Pilgrim's Progress,' so persistently do they show their bad sides, so fiercely does the author denounce them. The reader is never trusted to draw an inference of his own. For instance, Jack's mother, having been beaten by her husband, takes refuge with her son, who is hardly able to support himself and is trying to lay by money against his marriage to the girl he is engaged to. The mother goes out and flings his money away with both hands. She is recounting what she has bought:

"But this is not all. I went to buy this pie at a place where they sell fifteen cents less than anywhere else. It was so far, however, that I had to take a carriage to return."

Most writers would have sufficient confidence in their admirers to stop here and let the reader form his own conclusions, but Daudet goes on:

"This was thoroughly characteristic. A carriage at two francs to save fifteen cents!"

And this is but a sample of the way in which the book is written. Nothing is too glaring if it only produces an effect, so that the reader feels when he has finished the book as if his mind had been beaten with clubs. Cleverness like Daudet's does not need this exaggeration; it makes his story impressive to even the hastiest reader, but leaves it a mere mass of gloom without alleviation or possible consolation. The reader can only mourn one more victim of a novelist's cruelty; he cannot admire his art.

Another translation from the French is 'Gérard's Marriage,' by André Theuriet. Theuriet is a novel-writer of modest merit, who has carefully studied modern English fiction with considerable advantage to his own work. One of his early books was a French paraphrase of one of Miss Rhoda Broughton's stories—'Good-by, Sweetheart,' if we are not mistaken—and in his original writing there are to be found traces of English models. It may be merely fanciful to mention as such the love

'Jack.' From the French of Alphonse Daudet, author of 'Sidonie,' 'Robert Helmont,' etc., by Mary Neal Sherwood, translator of 'Sidonie.' First American edition, from the fortieth thousand, French edition. The Cobweb Series of Choice Fiction. Boston: Estes & Lauriat. 1877.

'Gérard's Marriage: A Novel.' From the French of André Theuriet. Collection of Foreign Authors, No. II. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1877.

of nature he displays, but he certainly shows English influence in his tendency to take for heroines young girls who do not follow the trig conventional French formulas. Still, it may be questioned whether he imitates the English sufficiently well to deserve translation into that tongue. His stories at the best are but slight things, and although he apparently imagines himself the pink of propriety, he manages to commit various breaches of decorum which were never learned from reading any English novels, except possibly those of Fielding and Smollett. So long as French novels remain in their original tongue any one who chooses can leave them unread, and those who read them are generally prepared for a conventional form of treatment which would shock them in an English book. Readers ignore and set down for local coloring in a French novel what is, in fact, exceedingly disagreeable. This story, for instance, is innocence itself, but it contains one scene such as is not to be found in any contemporaneous English novel, and which it would be quite as well not to introduce to such a public of indiscriminate readers as exists in this country. Besides this, there is no great merit in the story that would seem to prompt a translation.

Mr. Hawley Smart's 'Two Kisses,' which has been reprinted in this country some time after its appearance in England, will be found to be very entertaining. It is what is called a society novel, describing the career of a young widow who, having buried a worthless husband, marries again. The plot is an ingenious and, what is more, a probable one, if we make allowances for a little straining here and there; and the people are clearly and cleverly drawn. There is a great variety of characters introduced to the reader: a somewhat disreputable freebooter, whose position between respectability and swindling is not very certain, a sleek villain, a sensible husband of a coquettish wife, a very charming young girl, a would-be novelist, etc., etc., and every one of these persons gives the reader a very agreeable impression of the author's humor and habit of observation.

The difference between a really clever story like this one and a less genuine one will be very plain to those who, after finishing 'Two Kisses,' take up 'Until the Day Break.' This is also a society novel, and although the plot deserves commendation, the manner of treatment cannot be praised. Here is an example:

'When may we expect that interesting event?' asked Ellis. [He means Laura's entrance into society.]

'Undecided as yet,' replied Mrs. Stanley; 'but Laura is growing restless under her chrysalis state, and I presume she will burst upon our vision before long a beautiful butterfly.'

'I hardly think the butterfly could surpass the chrysalis: in fact the chrysalis is to me the more interesting. Butterflies are not to be depended upon; they are blown about by every zephyr and enticed away by every newly-blossomed flower,' said Ellis, earnestly.

'Yes; but the chrysalis is an insensate thing,' exclaimed Laura, etc., etc.

Again, let the reader compare the naturalness of the wicked persons in 'Two Kisses' with the mother and daughter who converse as follows in 'Until the Day Break.' The worldly mother says:

'And Mr. Arnot hints of his wealth. The dear fellow is so delicate. He knows, of course, we don't care for it; but still wealth is a power. Ah! child, how highly he regards us.'

'And what if he knew the truth?' laughed matter-of-fact Annie. 'But he mustn't, child. He must think that we care nothing, absolutely nothing, for dollars and cents, and care only for that which brings soul nearer to soul; only the beautiful in life; and he must never guess that it is the dollars and cents we want after all!'

Certainly this author cannot be accused of making vice attractive.

A really dismal novel never goes begging for readers, and 'My

'Two Kisses,' By Hawley Smart. Boston: Loring, 1877.
'Until the Day Break'; a Novel. By Mrs. J. M. D. Bartlett ('Birch Arnold'). The International Series. Philadelphia: Porter & Coates, 1877.
'My Bonnie Lass.' By Mrs. C. V. Hamilton, author of 'Woven of Many Threads,' 'A Crown from the Spear,' 'Ropes of Sand,' etc. Boston: Estes & Lauriat, 1877.

'Bonnie Lass' is more depressing to the spirits than a fortnight's storm would be. The plot is very intricate, and every new turn it takes brings only fresh misery upon the wretched Gregory Fitzgerald. He falls in love with a very charming girl, but his more fascinating brother comes upon the scene, and poor Gregory has to help him out of his troubles and see him win the heroine. There is a tolerably wilful accumulation of unhappiness, first and last, and the introductory episode about the girl's father is perhaps unnecessarily sad; but there are good points in the story. The conduct of the brother Gerald, when his evil deeds are discovered, is a novelty in fiction, and there are some chapters where the pathos is not exaggerated. The book is written in rather slipshod English, and there is more accidental overhearing of conversation than is commendable either on the score of probability or of invention on the part of the author, but, on the whole, this is a great improvement on Mrs. Hamilton's earlier work.

It was in an evil moment that the author of 'Beautiful Edith, the Child-Woman,' chose the name for her novel. It is a most unfortunate title, suggesting to the reader, as it does, the most oppressive silliness, while in fact the story is as entertaining and clever as any that has appeared for some time. It would be, perhaps, too much to say that it is as good as 'The Woeing O'T,' but it is very like that great favorite, while it is free from the somewhat snobbish awe of the aristocracy which marred Mrs. Alexander's novel. It is yet somewhat too long for gracefulness; but the amount of cleverness, of knowledge of the world, of observation, of kindly humor that has produced this story is very unusual. Take any one of the characters—Mrs. Lisle, for instance—and it will be hard to say in what respect the resemblance to life could be made greater.

Historical Dramas. By Tom Taylor, M.A., late Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. (London: Chatto & Windus, 1877. Svo, pp. 466.) —Mr. Taylor is a skilful playwright, a fair dramatist, and a poor poet. He writes good smooth blank-verse, but it is lit by little light and informed with no fire; his prose is much more vigorous and direct than his verse. Of the seven plays in this volume four are in verse, yet the three in prose include the best two—"Lady Clancarty" and "Plot and Passion." The latter, although a little stiff and at times a little thin, is a really powerful drama, while the former is one of the very best plays of its class. Of the blank-verse plays, two are unfortunate attempts on the lives of "Anne Boleyn" and "Jeanne Darc," hapless heroines of many a tragedy and opera, no one of which, if we mistake not, has attained success on the stage. "The Fool's Revenge" and "Twixt Axe and Crown" follow in part the lines laid down by M. Victor Hugo and Frau Birch-Pfeiffer in 'Le Roi s'amuse' and 'Elizabeth, Prinzessin von England.' They are not slavish imitations or adaptations, but rather a free-handed reworking of the earlier plays. The right to take material wherever it is to be found has been acted on openly and without concealment by all dramatic poets from Plautus to Molière. Mr. Taylor is scrupulous in acknowledging in notes the source of his inspiration. Only in the two cases above cited has he been a considerable borrower; two plays are entirely original, and in three cases he is indebted to another merely for the rudimentary hint.

If this volume find readers, Mr. Taylor proposes to gather together two more, one of comedies and one of romantic dramas. We should be glad to see these followed by still another, containing the comedies written by him in collaboration with Mr. Charles Reade—"Masks and Faces" for one. The habit of publishing plays, which once obtained in England and still obtains in France, cannot be without influence for good on the quality of dramatic literature.

"Beautiful Edith, the Child-Woman." Loring's Tales of the Day. Boston: Loring 1877.

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Continued from page iii.

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